START

ONI

LONDON

REEL K 9 A

1/10/40 to 31/10/40 cont

from K-8-A.

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

O.G. 45. H.M.T. HAARLEM and ERIN unable to sail with O.G. 45 yesterday owing defects. Expect to complete in 48 hours. Next O.G. conference 19/11. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1255/31 to C.in C. W.A.)

S.L. 51. A/C report received from Aldergrove from AMAZON. Joined ARROW and 26 ships at 0700/31 in position 54° 40' N. 09° 00' W. T.O.O. 0925/31. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1615/31).

Your 1723/31 position in my 1248/31 (position of STARSTONE) should read 054° 11' N. 015° 35' W. (ALCANTARA, 1742/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

W.N. 27. Convoy W.N. 27 is sheltering west of Dunnet Head and attempting passage of Pentland Firth at daylight. Provide A/A cover to Rattray Head then return to Scapa. (F.O. (D) H.F., 0445/31, to CURACOA).

Am proceeding with 7 ships of W.N.27. Consider remainder are sheltering well astern. (FOWEY, 0928/31, to A.C.O.S.)

Following received from CURACOA. FOWEY with seven small ships of W.N.27 now proceeding. FOWEY states remainder are sheltering somewhere between Clyde and Pentland Firth. As convoy should reach Rattray Head after dark intend leaving it at dark and returning to Scapa. 0931. (A.C.O.S. 1335/31 to Admty.)

W.N.O.29. Expect to sail W.N.O.29 code word LIMITED 0800/1, H.M. Trawler WOLVES, 4 ships routed through Firth of Lorne to R.V. with MUSTER (position) at 1630/1. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1635/31).

AADA. Your 2219/30. Lloyd's register shows draught of AADA as nearly 25 feet but maximum depth alongside Thorshaven is 22 feet. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1647/31 to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA ANTONIA. 2 destroyers are to meet LETITIA with EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and ANTONIA at dawn 2/11 and escort them to Clyde. (C.in C. H.F. 1748/31 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

/ Convoys Crossing 10° W. .....

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Convoys crossing 10° W.

Your 1950/30 it is intended to send a daily signal to C.in C. Western Approaches repeating to H.Q. Coastal Command and H.Q. Fighter Command forecasting 48 hours ahead what ships are expected to cross 10° West indicating at the same time their respective latitudes. Admty. 1340/39 will not be fully operative until middle November as ships now on passage will not have received these instructions. (D.T.D. 1509/31 to C.in C. W.A.).

Troop Convoys W.S.4A

F.O. i/c Cardiff's 2315/30. Liverpool and Clyde Sections of W.S.4A are to sail as originally ordered. F.O.i/c Milford Haven is to arrange new R/V for CARLAND to join Newport Section which has time to catch up the main body at the R/V given in my 1545/28. (C.in C. W.A. 1101/31).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

GRIFFIN
Shadowing
5 Destroyers

0610/31. GRIFFIN shadowing 5 unknown vessels in 70° Almina Point 70, course 270°. Ships bruning navigation lights. (F.O.C.N.A. 0712/31) My 0712. 5 destroyers (F.O.C.N.A's 0712. In view of Consul General Tangier's 1900/30, Force H including BARHAM and 9 destroyers proceeding westward at 0830. (S.O. Force H., 0753/31)

If French destroyers proceed to Casablanca and if air reconnaissance indicates no movement of French ships now at Casablanca intend returning to Gibraltar with Force H. (V.A.H., to Admty, 0914/31)
Gibraltar 1315/31. French destroyers BRESTOIS BORDELAIS, SIMOUN, TEMPETE, L'ALCYON passed from east to west (S.O.I., Gib., 1435/31) Return to Gibraltar after dark if French ships still proceeding to Casablanca. (S.O.Force H 1801/31 to GRIFFIN) F.O.C.N.A. 0712/31. F.O. Force H. in RENOWN, BARHAM, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, FURY, GREYHOUND sailed 0900/31 (S.O.I., Gribraltar, 1122/31) My 1122/31. ENCOUNTER, FORESTER, GALLANT, GISHART passed 1200, GRIFFIN passed westbound 1300 all to join Force H. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1632/31)

CANADA

My 1913/28. CANADA sailed from Toulon without receiving route. She is due Straits of Gibraltar 1/11 and should be given route as in my 1913/28. Admty. should be informed of her expected time of arrival at 52.30 N., 14.00 W. (D.O.D. (H) to F.O.C.N.A. 1238/31)

Casablanca

Please see Consul-Gen. Tangier 1900/30 to F.O. No 616 (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty., 2336/30 recd. 0106/31). Refers to reports French ships in Casablanca may sail at any time.

JEAN BART

Please see Consu-Gen. Tangier No 623 to K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1801/31 to Admty). Refers to report preparations being made to take JEAN BART from Casablanca to Toulon.

CUBA
intercepted by
MORETON BAY

Have intercepted French ship CUBA from Martinique to Casablanca with troops on board. Request instructions. When intercepted course was set for about Dakar. (MORETON BAY to C. in C., S.A., 1625/31) Reported to Admty. and asking what action should be taken. (C. in C., S.A. 1817/31, 1942/31)

Your 1625/31.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CUBA
Intercepted by
MORETON BAY, Contd.

Your 1625/31. Report your position and if colonial or white troops and any other details available. Ship to be told not to use W/T. (C.in C., S.A. to MORETON BAY, 1835/31)
Your 1625/31. Report your position and keep touch with CUBA. (D.C., 1046/31 to MORETON BAY)

Your 1817/31. MORETON BAY is to ascertain by boarding if practical and report:-
Number of troops specifying destination and whether they are:- (a) White or Black, (b) Reservists, (c) For repatriation.
2. Whether there is any appreciable cargo on board. If so what. Rumour has it that there may be gold on board.
If cargo is appreciable vessel is to be taken to Freetown keeping 200 miles clear of Dakar.
If no cargo or very little vessel is to be shadowed and further instructions will be sent.
If superior French surface forces or French Submarines are met vessel is to be released.
DRAGON if available might be employed.
(D.O.D. (F) 2302/31 to C. in C. S.A.)

Your 2301/31. DRAGON has not sufficient fuel to reach MORETON BAY's position and return to Freetown or Gibraltar. (C. in C., S.A., 2323/31, to Admty.)

Your 2311/31. CUBA first sighted 1310 over horizon in position 026° 53' N., 029° 36' W course Southeast, intercepted 1430 still on same course. Boarded 1500. Has on board 1216 sailors and 17 invalid soldiers all white and 21 officers.
Cargo manifest about 4000 tons rice and Soya beans. Captain uncommunicative, stated personnel going home via Casablanca, when questioned about course being steered produced log showing course north 70 east. No specie book produced. Situation now 025° 36' N., 029° 26' W., 166° 10. CUBA in company.
(MORETON BAY, 2230N/31, to Admty.)

/Dakar....

MOST SECRET

31.10.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Dakar, French Submarines

Report received from Commander Gijon this morning as follows (begins) French officer who crossed frontier from Dakar today states that 4 French submarines slightly smaller than SURCOUF type with depot ship arrived at Dakar 28/10. Depot ship and one submarine left immediately. Direction S.S.E. with object of refuelling submarines, numbers and nationality unknown. T.O.O. 2315/30. (Ends) DRAGON arriving Bathurst today is making further enquiries. Have established air and naval patrol to southward of Freetown with small forces available but if information correct vessels may have passed. (C. in C., S.A. to C.S. 1.) 1151N/31, Informing DEVONSHIRE, DELHI and PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, (C.S.I. 1849/31)

French Troops

Your 1942/29 re French transport sighted off Alicante, first paragraph seems to conflict with you 0816/24, French troops reported going overland, which appears to be reliable information. (C. in C., S.A. 1155N/31 to Admty.)

State of DUNKERQUE JEAN BART

Your 2111/30, Although DUNKERQUE has been refloated and work is proceeding from her space, she would not be ready for sea much less to go into a fight for many months. (B.2)
JEAN BART can steam at 20 knots but could not enter a fight with any chance of success Only one turret of 380 millimetres is in action.
She has no central firing point and carries spare guns which are not ordinarily part of her proper equipment. (B.2.)
(N.I.D. paraphrase of a signal from Consul-General, Tangier, timed 2030/31)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ARGUS — Your 1950/30. Endeavour made to sail ARGUS with ARK ROYAL but due to various causes it was not found possible. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.Force H., 0015/31)

MIRROR — My 1154/14. In view of Air Ministry's X 84 of 16/10 to 200 Group Gibraltar intend MIRROR proceed to either Freetown or U.K. with R.A.F. personnel on accordance with Air Ministry's Cr 200 Group ultimate decision. Balance of crew for MIRROR can be provided from an R.A.F. Boat crew etc. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/31)

SHEFFIELD — Admty. 2147/30 (when to be withdrawn from Azores Patrol)Reply. (S.O. Force H, to F.O.C.N.A., 0836/31)

South Atlantic

GUNNY Overdue — Overdue shipping. GUNNY due Capetown 27/10 from Rio de Janeiro not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0945/B/31)

Unknown Ship sighted by ERRIA — Your 1404/30, report of master of ex-Danish ship ERRIA on unknown ship. Vessel cannot be identified here. (S.O.I. Capetown, to S.O.I. Freetown, 1255/B/31)

A.M.C. Exchanges — D.O.D. (F) 1426/31, see America & West Indies.

ESCOLAND Intercepted. release. — Your 1019/28. Spanish ship ESCOLAND intercepted by ESPERANCE BAY. Have you any information about this ship? (S.O.I., Freetown to S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1311/31) Your 1311. Nothing on this voyage. In June last when bound from Fernando Po to a Spanish or Italian port she should have been brought into Gibraltar but was not intercepted. (S.O.I. Gib. 1716/31)
Your 1955/31 (not to Admty.) Ship is to be released. (C. in C., S.A., to ESPERANCE BAY, 2305 M/31)

/Raider Report....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Raider Report — Suggestion from intercepted W/T that an enemy surface raider might have been on great circly Ascension Azores at 1915/28 (c. in C., S.A. to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MORETON BAY, ARAWA, 2003H/31)

Convoy W.S. 3.
CARTHAGE
DORSETSHIRE

Your 0756/30 para 2.
Convoy W.S. 3 C will leave Capetown at 1000/1 and xpect to pass through position (a) of your 0810/28 para 1 (not to COLOMBO) at 0600/4 and thence along route of W.S. 3.
Time and position at which CARTHAGE leaves W.S. 3 A after making contact DORSETSHIRE and W.S. 3 B and at present can be estimated only very approximately.
Therefore request you will issue instructions for CARTHAGE to contact W.S. 3.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1904Z/31 to C. in C. E.I)

W.S. 3 A
W.S. 3 B

Sailed 29/10 and 30/10 respectively. List.
(SSTO Capetown, 1639 B/31)

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece.

Suda Bay. COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, PROTECTOR, FAREHAM, FIONA, CHARLA and 4 destroyers with tankers OLNA and BRAMBLELEAF should arrive Suda Bay p.m. today to establish fuelling base. AJAX with Yorks and Lancaster regiment on board should arrive Suda Bay a.m. tomorrow Friday. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0853/31).

British Troops. My 0853. Following troops held in readiness for embarkation for Crete. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 0856/31).

Minelaying. Following from N.A. Your 1652/29. Greek Government informed of areas dangerous to shipping owing to mines as specified in Admty. telegram No. 140 of 10/6. Greeks informed that no mines will be laid in these areas without previous consultation. (Sir M. Palaajet, Athens, 2000/30, Received in F.O. 1310/31).

Greek Troops in Spain. Following from N.C.S.O. Lisbon. Greek authorities at Lisbon ask if there is any way of transporting Greek troops from Spain back to Greece. 1531/30. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A. 2025/31).

Your 1531/30, not to F.O.C.N.A. How many are there? Could they cross frontier to Gibraltar? When could they be collected at Lisbon? (D.O.D.(F) to N.C.S.O. Lisbon 2024/31).

Enemy Transports to Albania. Situation Report. C. in C. informed me that Jugo Slav General Staff report arrival in Albania of four more Infantry divisions bringing total to fifteen of which twelve are on our front. Also continual movement of transports between Italy and Albania. He requests most urgently that any action possible be taken to interrupt this transportation, and that earliest help possible should be given by bombing Italian concentrations in Albania using Greek aerodromes for refuelling as required. Points out essential to retard Italian operations as long as possible. General communique for today no activity worth reporting. Enemy bringing up artillery and stores. Patras twice bombed today without damage. (M.A. Athens, to W.O., 0031/31).

Greek Troop Convoys. Greek troop convoys start to-night Thursday. All convoys are escorted and mostly to Salonica using general Euboean Channel. (N.A. Athens 1401/31 to C.in C. Med.).

/ Enemy Fleet .....

MOST SECRE

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Continued)

Enemy Fleet. Aircraft report on landing. Brindisi One Battleship under construction 6 large cruisers 2 other cruisers 12 destroyers 2 merchant vessels and 30 seaplanes. Taranto 3 battleships and 11 cruisers or possibly 5 battleships and 9 cruisers, large number of destroyers and 25 seaplanes. T.O.O. 1605/31 Ends. (V.A. Malta 1613/31).

Summary of air reconnaissance 31/10.
(a) Brindisi. One destroyer outside course 135 degs. at 1300. Taranto - of ships already reported two cruisers 8 destroyers and 20 torpedo craft alongside quay inner harbour. Further in 15 small craft and 25 seaplanes. Moderate A/A fire.
(b) No activity Ionian Islands. 12 very small ships of which one of one thousand tons SANTA QUARENTA one 8 thousand ton merchant vessel off Saseno Island. Gulf of Patras not reconnoitred owing to heavy rain.
(c) Nothing sighted in Ionian Sea.
T.O.O. 1747/31. (V.A. Malta 1753/31).

Malta Air Report. Malta situation report up to 1700 hours 31/10 all times G.M.T. 0830 to 1330 Glenn Martin Reconnaissance Malta Corfu Brindisi Taranto Malta for enemy surface forces and to examine and report shipping in ports. Main shipping signals amplified on landing as follows. Corfu no shipping in Straits between Corfu and Mainland. Santa Queranta one ship of possibly 1000 tons off Saseno Island one M/V about 8000 tons. Brindisi one Battleship under construction no superstructure six large Cruisers including the BARI and TARANTO. 2 other Cruisers 12 Destroyers one of which outside harbour course 135 degrees 2 M/V's and 30 Float-planes. TARANTO 5 Battleships of which 2 possibly Cruisers 11 Cruisers of which 2 possibly Battleships large number of Destroyers and one M/V of these 2 Cruisers and 8 Destroyers in unner Harbour also 20 smaller Destroyers or Torpedo Craft alongside Quay. Further in 15 Small Craft and 25 Seaplanes. Moderate inaccurate A.A. Fire TARANTO. 0900 to 1430 Blenheim Recco Malta Cephalonia then along Coast Northwards to Le' Kay Island Gulf of Arta Malta to report enemy naval movement. Reported on landing. At Gostoli 3 Small Sailing Coasters nil remainder of route unable to reconnoitre Gulf of Patras bad weather reconnaissance of Ionian Sea North of lat 37 degrees North by 2 Sunderlands as follows. 0500 1440 Sunderland 230 Squadron. 0515 1425 Sunderland 228 Squadron. Nil reports both aircraft. No naval or military items. No enemy air activity over Malta today .....

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Campaign Against Greece. (Continued)

Malta Air Report. (contd.) today. (A.H.Q. Mediterranean 1700/31).

Greek Submarines. In view of supreme important of cutting Italian communications to Albania for next month Greek C.N.S. considers it desirable to concentrate on submarines against these communications. If you agree and can move any British submarine away which is now there Greek C.N.S. will move up three submarines as early as possible for operating between latitudes 39° 50' and 41° 20'. Information urgently requested concerning (a) most profitable areas of operation (b) Italian A/S methods (c) any fixed A/S installations of nets or mines. (N.A. Athens, 1644/31, to C.in C. Med.)

Troop Convoys. Greek troop convoys disembark tonight, Thursday. All convoys are escorted and mostly to Salonica using the general Euboean channel. (N.A. Athens, 1924/31). (N.A. Athens, 1924/31).

MOST SECRET.

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French Squdn. Alexandria. — Your 1201/16 and related signals. For your information H.M.G. are opposing the release of French funds in U.S.A. for maintenance of the Alexandria Squadron since this would create an undesirable precedent for releasing funds generally for French overseas purposes. If funds are not released position remains as in para. 2 of my 1731/28/9. A.T. 1049/28. In view of possible naval co-operation between Vichy Government and Axis powers, request also your general appreciation of sympathies of French squadron. (Mi. of M. 1425/31 to C.in C. Med.).

East Indies.

Italian Use of Tracer. — On 21 October 1 Italian destroyer was firing white tracer from all guns the other red and green from each mounting. Performance of tracer excellent. This identified them and helped to locate them when not illuminated. 1 ship of convoy mistook them for Commodore's Very Light signals. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0850Z/31 to C.in C. E.I.)

Convoy C.M.5. — Will be ready to leave Durban at 1400/2. COLOMBO to sail accordingly as escort to Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1020Z/31).

MAURETANIA, AQUITANIA, QUEEN MARY. — Your 2223/29. Dates of intended sailing for Fremantle. (S.S.T.O., India, to D. of S.T., 1115Z/31).

Convoys W.S.3. H.N.32 — Time expected to pass Aden and arrival Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 1242Z/31).

Perim Raid, British Air Report. — Daily Intelligence Summary No. 141 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ended 1500 31/10. 0240 enemy dropped 9 bombs on Perim without damage. 0630 to 1400 2 Blenheims 203 Squadron from Kamaran patrolled convoy SW 2 A. 0930 4 railway stations between Diredawa and French Somaliland each attacked by 2 Blenheims all simultaneously Indian Wing at Duanle all bombs in area including 1 in coal yard 1 on track 1 by water tank 2 on buildings west of track. At Adele 3 bombs across track and building remainder wide. 8 Squadron at Aiscia all bombs west of target damage doubtful, at Adagalla all bombs straddled track near buildings and blew down telephone lines. No opposition but exceptionally strong surface wind complicated bombing. No damage or casualties all times G.M.T.
(Air H.Q. Aden, 1830/31 to Air Min.).

MOST SE[illegible].

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Routeing of Dutch Shipping. Commander Willinge, Royal Dutch Navy has visited Singapore with instructions to discuss routeing of merchant shipping in the event of war with Japan. Have informed him of sense of paragraph three of Captain on Staff's telegram 18 and given him information he asked for as far as this could be done without discussing full plan. (C.in C. China, 0509/31 to Admty.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Repatriees. Admty. 1149/19 para.1. Repatriees from ILE DE FRANCE can almost certainly be sent in Dutch Ship leaving Singapore (date) for Lourenco Marques and Durban if very early definite booking is made. Intend to book for Lourenco Marques as required unless instructions are received to the contrary before 4/11. (C.in C. China, 0851/31 to Admty.)

Singapore Conference. Conclusions of after survey of defence problems in Far East. (C.in C. China, 0951Z/31, 1031Z/31, to Admty. and for W.O. and A.M.).

America and West Indies.

BOUGAINVILLE. My 1131/29. San Francisco reports BOUGAINVILLE sailed San Francisco 30/10 for Indo-China via Honolulu omitting British Columbia port. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0924/31).

Town Class Destroyers. Hope to sail BUXTON, CAMERON, GEORGETOWN for U.K. A.M.1/11 if BUXTON dynamos which have been giving trouble are satisfactory. If not, should CAMERON and GEORGETOWN sail together? (N.O.I.C. St. John's, 1540/31).

A.M.C's Exchange. In view of C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/28, further exchanges of station referred to in Admty. 1651/10 are at present in abeyance. Para.2 of my 1341/19 is cancelled. (D.O.D.(F) 1426/31)

Free French Offer, Sydney, C.B. Offer from French sailors in trawlers ZAZPIAKBAT, FOUDROYANT, ATLANTA and LES CREBAUX to join Free French cause. 4 vessels lying at Sydney, C.B., since June. Request men may be sent to London at first opportunity. (Adm. Comd. F.F.F. to Admty. 1620/31).

/ CHARLES L.D. .....

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

CHARLES L.D.

My 1202/29. New York reports steamship CHARLES L.D. now reported to have sailed from Casablanca 29/10 for Martinique with U.S. cargo ex steamship INCLUV nd GABON. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1032/31).

Intelligence of Vichy French Fleet.

Following information received from Navy Dept: from Casablanca. Preparations are under way for JEAN BART to proceed to Toulon.
From Dakar. 4 French submarines arrived on 28/10 and S.S. PORTHOS left for Casablanca same day.
From Algiers. It has been learned from a reliable source that a telegram from Admiral Darlan has been received by local High Command of French Naval Forces. Message stated "In order to save our Empire I must have French Fleet prepared for calls both night and day".

HELGOLAND.

From Bogota. HELGOLAND is understood to be provisioned for six months and reported to carry three guns. Information for what it is worth was obtained from a German by Ambassador from Brazil. (N.A. Washington 1816/31).

Greek Ships.

Following received from New York "Following telegram from Mitsubishi Tokyo received by Mitsubshi New York begins. Request owners representative or agents send telegraphed orders to Captains of Greek Vessels en route to Japan that they may enter Japanese ports without fear as we have obtained Japanese Government guarantee to give them no restriction of their movements after discharge and give themevery possible convenience for their sailing. Ends. Mitsubishi New York has requested agents all Greek ships that are Japanese chartered to telegraph masters conveying this guarantee. Similar action is being taken by Mitsu 1458/21". (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2357/31.)

Australia.

AWATEA.

Left Sydney 08182/31 for Auckland with 295 service personnel. ADELAIDE escort to 33.15 S., 156° E. (A.C.N.B., 1039Z/31)

MOST SECRET

31.10.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND, reported scuttled. Los Angeles report (B.2) destination is Santa Domingo and that she will be disguised as a Dutch ship (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0111/31) Barranquila reports (C.3) scuttled, position unknown. Crew taken on board Japanese ship SAKURA MARU sailed Barranquila 29/10 New York. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2111/31) See also N.A. Washington 1816/31 (A.W.I.)

STORMAN Reported with cargo of iron ore is preparing to sail from Bilbao on or about 1/11. Probable destination Bayonne. (D.D.I.C., 0617/31).

RIO GRANDE. Grounded in port this evening 31/10 in attempting to sail. Efforts being made to refloat her. (R.O., Rio Grande, 2045/31) My 2045. RIO GRANDE sailed 2210/31. (R.O., Rio Grande, 2214/31). (S.O.I., Montevideo, 0146Z/1, 0230Z/1).

SESOSTRIS. My 2017/30. Curacao now states report appears false but his informant now states unnamed Italian ship trying to escape from Puerto Cabello. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2301/31).

NORBURG
DELOS
LARISSA Departures in Ballast Russian and German steamers NORBURG and DELOS and arrival from Russia LARISSA 2900 Manganese ore. (Macrae, Galati 1217/31).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SAN FRANCISCO
WINNIPEG. Reference Admty. 1658/14 to N.A. SAN FRANCISCO left New York to join WINNIPEG from New Orleans off Gee Island 2130 G.M.T./30. Vessels proceed in company 12 knots routed by French 40° 38' N. 50° W. great circle 55° 35' N. 10° W. expected to arrive position 55° 35' N. 7° W. at 0830 G.M.T./12/11. Approach route Liverpool issued by Admiralty through N.A. received by both vessels. (N.C.S.O. New York 1551/31).

FORT RICHEPANSE. Following received from New York. Begins:- FORT RICHEPANSE sailed 30/10/ for Martinique and Guadaloupe cargo general merchandise. Will endeavour ascertain details. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2002/31.)

MOST ~~SECRET~~

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BALZAC (Attacked 30/10) — My position course and speed 55.25' N., 0919'W., 070°, 8, escorting BALZAC and ? both for Mersey. (GERANIUM, 1300/31)

Submarines Reported

0830 — Periscope sighted close by position 56.50 N. 09.14 W., at 0730 G.M.T. T.O.R. 0853. (ACHILLES (Dutch) no T.O.O./31)

With object of detecting and destroying U-Boats on passage off the Irish Coast, A/S patrols should be instituted at your discretion either in the vicinity of the 100 fathom line between latitude 51° and 53° (N) or a crossover patrol as follows through positions CPTV 1800, AJDE 4330, BJDE 5022 and CPTV 0804 starting as early as practicable leaving base by daylight and returning to base in daylight. (Air Min. to C.C., 1835/31)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian 1 off Gironde 1855/30
German 1 was in 54° 30' N., 23° 26' W., 1850/30.
1 was in about 56° 30' N., between 14° W., and 17° E., at 1105/30.
1 was in about 58° 30' N., and west of 18° W at 1511/30.
1 was in 56° 50' N., 9° 14' W., at 0830/31
Possibly 1 more in nearer N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 probably N. of 60° N and west of 15° W may be homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/31)

Submarines Attacked

By TALISMAN 22/10 — TALISMAN reports four armed trawlers in 46° N., 02° 16' W., at 0015/18. Beacon trawler previously reported by TIGRIS not seen. TALISMAN trimmed down fired 6 torpedoes at CALVI Class U-Boat at 0645/22 in 45° 49' N., 01° 43' W. Explosion close ahead immediately after firing probably owing to torpedo hitting bottom. TALISMAN dived after firing and then surfaced and opened fire unsuccessfully with gun. Enemy submarine fire 3 white stars and then dived. An East West trawler patrol from passage De O'Ouest is maintained. Air activity slight. (V.A.S. 1903/31)

/by HARVESTER...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.10.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By HARVESTER
U- 237 Sunk 30/10

Arrived HARVESTER with U/Boat prisoners. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1116/31) E.T.A. 2130. Have 4 U-Boat prisoners. (HIGHLANDER, 1505/31 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

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31 12 40

ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

1 November 1940 - 31 December 1940

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Patrols cancelled. Patrols and movements in the Channel last night were cancelled on account of bad weather. Minelaying operations have also been postponed.

BERWICK. BERWICK sailed today for Gibraltar.

Trawlers shelled from French coast. Six trawlers sweeping off Dover were heavily shelled today from the French coast, about 200 rounds being fired between 1147 and 1542. No damage or casualties were caused.

Dover shelled. Shelling of Dover harbour, town and Dover area persisted until 1900, about 40 further rounds being fired. No naval casualties or damage resulted.

SCHELDE SEAMAN These two rescue tugs which left Londonderry 1900/31 for Belfast, where they were due 0830/1, have not arrived.

ASHANTI was docked at Sunderland today.

Redistribution of submarines. In view of the effective results being obtained by submarines employed in Channel patrol a redistribution of submarines and depot ships is proposed, to allow of submarine patrols off Brest.

German hospital barge. A German hospital towing barge was beached near Seaford Head today.

E.boats engaged. About 2210 today armed trawler LADY SHIRLEY engaged one of two E.boats near Aldeburgh Float. The E.boats made off at high speed. It appears likely they were engaged in minelaying.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command. Owing to adverse weather conditions, all operations last night were cancelled.

5 Wellingtons successfully bombed an oil refinery, and railway targets at Naples early this morning.

Enemy Air Activity.

PINTAIL damaged. Convoy F.S. 23 was attacked this morning some 13 miles E. of Yarmouth. PINTAIL received direct hits but proceed to Lowestoft on one engine.

S.S.BALTRADER attacked 24/10. It is reported that S.S. BALTRADER (which was attacked yesterday) was unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned 24/10 off N.W. Ireland. The W/T operator, in sending out

S.O.S. ...

War Diary.

STITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

S.S. BALTRADER attacked 24/10. (Contd.

S.O.S. made a mistake in the position.

D.W.2 bombed attack in Thames Estuary.

For the first time for many weeks enemy dive bombers JU 87 and JU 88 attacked shipping.

S.S. LETCHWORTH M/S Tr. TILBURYNESS E. Gaze L.V. sunk. ROYAL EAGLE M.L.120 attacked.

At least 20 dive bombers attacked shipping in Gaze Deep between 1430 and 1437 today. The following vessels are reported sunk: S.S. LETCHWORTH (1317 tons) in Convoy F.S.22 M/S Trawler TILBURYNESS, East Gaze Light Vessel. Mid Barrow Light Vessel was bombed and machine gunned without result. ROYAL EAGLE (A.A. vessel ~~?S.S. 1539 tons~~) sustained slight superficial damage and casualties and claims to have shot down one enemy aircraft. M.L.120 was undamaged in attack and also claims one enemy aircraft shot down. One prisoner has been landed at Sheerness. Help messages were passed to H.Q. F.C. who replied that many squadrons of fighters were already in the neighbourhood. Later reports indicate that no fighters were seen by our vessels and it is thought they were perhaps too high to intercept the dive bombers.

TORBAY II sunk

Drifters proceeding on patrol from Dover were attacked this afternoon by about 15 dive bombers, and 5 bombs were also dropped in the town and harbour. TORBAY II was sunk by a near miss.

Convoy F.S.24.

LONDONDERRY and Convoy F.S.24 were bombed this evening off the Humber. No damage resulted.

Attacks on U.K.

Two attacks were made on the London docks today, and a very little damage was done to two warehouses. Portsmouth was unsuccessfully attacked. Damage was caused at King George Dock, Hull early this morning.

S.S. HOUSTON CITY.

S.S. HOUSTON CITY (mined and beached 21/10 near Gaze Deep) was bombed and damaged today.

Mining.

SANTA LUCIA

Dutch M.V. SANTA LUCIA (379 tons) was mined and sunk off Belfast today.

BLACK SWAN

A mine exploded under the stern of BLACK SWAN near Inchkeith Light this morning, putting her main engines out of action.

HUNDVAAG sunk

S.S. HUNDVAAG (Norw. 690 tons) was sunk by an explosion, probably a mine, off Dover this evening.

/ Ports affected. ...

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining. (Continued)

Ports affected. Avonmouth, Newport, Barry and Cardiff were reopened this evening. Sailings from Swansea to the Eastward are stopped.
Milford Haven is open in daylight only.
Humber was closed at 2247, Falmouth at 2000, Rosyth approach channel at 2156, Fowey at 2347.
Mines were found or exploded at Milford Haven, Tyne and Gunfleet Sands.
Four A/C mines were dropped today in the Hamoaze.

Enemy A/C minelaying. Minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary is suspected between 1900 and 2100 today. No minelaying aircraft were believed to have been operating last night in waters round Great Britain.

E.boat minelaying. See Home Commands.

Bay of Biscay mined area. The limits of the Bay of Biscay mined area have been amended by the Admiralty.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Force H returned to Gibraltar today (See 31/10).

Mediterranean.

Corfu was heavily bombed this afternoon.
Suda and Canea were also attacked today but little damage was done.
One Bombay aircraft attacked Bardia last night.
Forty bombs were dropped on Matruh today before our fighters intercepted the raiders.
No damage resulted.

America and West Indies.

The U.S.A. Navy have established patrols off Fort de France and whatever port JEANNE D'ARC may be in, with orders to maintain contact in case of movement.
6 Town class destroyers left Halifax today for the U.K. via St. John's N.F.

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Hatston Proposed withdrawal of A/C.

Your 1347/30. I do not think we should withdraw anything from our insufficient A/S Forces covering the well established Northern U-Boat route. Furthermore the enemy may at any time switch his attack to the Focal areas near Cape Wrath and the Moray Firth.
A further consideration is the unsuitability of aircraft of 821 and 823 squadrons to operate by day in areas where they are likely to be opposed by modern shore based aircraft.
I therefore recommend the retention of 821 and 823 squadrons at Hatston.
(C.in C. H.F. 1326/1 to Adty.)

Meetingsas to A/S measures.

My 1412/24. Will be held in future on every alternate Tuesday. Next meeting 12/11.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1629/1 to C.in C's)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 0200/1. (D.C. 0207/1) At 1400/1 (D.C. 1426/1).

Movements.

ALCANTARA.

My 2351/31. Route to Needles.
(C.in C. W.A. 0031/1 and 1057/1)

SANDWICH.

ETA. 1700 (?2200) (SANDWICH 0915/1 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 1/2. (V.A. Dover 1428/1 to Adty.)

SALVIA
PEONY
GLOXINIA
HYACINTH

Provisionally allocated to leave for Mediterranean about 8/11. Is their LL Gear complete (D.O.D. H. 1518/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Orkneys.

Movements for Night 1/2. (A.C.O.S. 1531 and 1941/1).

Rosyth.

Command State 1/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 2001/1).

MOST SECRET.

1. 11. 1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

CELTIC. French, 904 tons. Was intercepted 0009/31 in 45° 2'N. 25° 17' W. steering East at 8 knots. 7 days coal remaining and flying yellow triangular flag under ensign.
Ordered to Greenock for detention.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1011/1 to Adty.)

Operation LUCID. Request operation may now be cancelled for following reasons. (C.in C. Nore 1150/1 to Adty.) Approved (1st S.L. 1634/1 to C.in C. Nore) Operation postponed indefinitely. All copies of Operation Orders to be destroyed by fire. (1st S.L. 1627/1 to C.in C. Nore)

Faroes. Your 1647/31. Troops taking only small quantity of equipment all of which can be manhandled. Disembarkation to be by local craft. (D.O.D. H. 1205/1 to N.O.I.C. Faroes)

VANOC, VOLUNTEER, LA MELPOMENE. Patrol Eastward tonight as cover for Convoy C.E.13. They may proceed to Southward keeping clear of S/M Areas W.2 and S.3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1305 and 1640/1 to Adty.)

M/S Trawlers shelled. 6 M/S Trawlers sweeping QZS.105 heavily shelled today between 1147 and 1542. About 200 rounds fired. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1929/1 to Adty.)

Dover shelled. Dover Harbour, Town, and Area shelled until 1900. Batteries at Wissant, Framzelle, Wimereux, and near Calais all fired. One civilian killed, 3 civilians and 3 military wounded. (V.A. Dover 1929/1 to Adty.)

Submarines.

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/2. (V.A.S. 1701/1).

Proposed redistribution of S/M's and Depot Ships. My 1392/S.M.105 of 13/10 to Adty. and my 1112/19/10 to Adty. In view of effective results obtained by S/M's on Channel Patrols and need for S/M Patrols off Brest, following redistribution of S/M's and Depot Ships is now proposed.
(V.A.S. 1829/1 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

LETITIA
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA
ANTONIA
2 Destroyers.

) Request A/S Air Escort from daylight 2nd. Estimated in 59° 16' N. 7° 55' W. at 0800/2, proceeding to Clyde via Minches. (C.in C. H.F. 1417/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Enemy Air Activity.

PINTAIL.

(Corvette) My 0718. Direct hit on PINTAIL. Am standing by in 52° 51' N. 1° 43' E. (VERDUN 0725/1). Direct hit on bridge, but able steam on one boiler. Am taking wounded and standing by. Request Tug and Fighter Escort (VERDUN 0735/1 to Adty.) Tug C.F.C.D. proceeded help of PINTAIL (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0950/1 to Salvage Dept. Adty.) Unexploded Bomb embedded in bridge of PINTAIL (VERDUN 0929/1 to C.in C. Nore). Take PINTAIL to Lowestoft (C.in C. Nore 1027/1 to VERDUN) Damage as follows: 9 killed including Captain, 10 injured 6 seriously. Proceeding under own steam to Lowestoft escorted by VERDUN. (PINTAIL 1130/1 to N.O.I.C. Harwich) Arrangements should be made to tow PINTAIL to Yarmouth for repairs as soon as convenient. (C.in C. Nore 1114/1 to P.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Attack of Enemy A/C by M/V's in Convoy.

For N.C.S.O's. Masters are to be informed that, when to the Westward of 7° West in Area 1, merchant ships in convoy are not to open fire on aircraft at night unless they are attacked. With this exception any aircraft approaching within range should immediately be engaged as hitherto. A.M.S.I's 104 and 213, N.C.S.I. 124 and Trade Division memorandum N/2/413 are amended accordingly. (A.I.C. 1715/1)

LONDONDERRY.

My 1727. One A/C now disappeared. 2 Bombs, no hits. (LONDONDERRY 1733/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Dover Patrol.

Drifters proceeding on Patrol attacked 1629 by about 15 Dive Bombers and 5 Bombs also dropped in Town and Harbour. TORBAY II sunk by near mines, one killed, remainder saved. 1 Rating in SHIPMATES wounded. (V.A. Dover 1929/1 to Adty.)

Attack on Shipping in East Coast.

LETCHWORTH

British, 1317 tons. Bombed and sunk at 1430/1 in East Coast. 17 survivors out of 18, 6 injured. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.)

/ TILBURYNESS .....

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

TUBBURYNESS. M/S Trawler. Bombed and sunk at 1430/1 in East Oaze. 10 missing, 7 landed of whom 2 injured. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.)

East Oaze Light Vessel. Bombed and sunk at 1430/1. No survivors. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.)

Mid Barrow Light Vessel. Bombed and machine-gunned at 1430/1. No casualties. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.).

ROYAL EAGLE. British, 1539 tons. Attacked by A/C in East Oaze at 1430/1. Slight damage and 2 very slight casualties. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1).

M.L. 120. Attacked by A/C in East Oaze at 1430/1. No damage or casualties. Claims shot down one A/C in Edinburgh Channel, and one Prisoner landed at Sheerness (C.in C. Nore 2152/1).

Mining.

PRINSESSE RAGNHILD (Norw. 1590 tons) stated by Norwegian Wireless to have struck a mine of Haugesund 25/10 and sunk (D.S. 423).

Unidentified ship. An unidentified ship was mined today close to westward of No.1 Buoy, Dover. (D.S.424)

Milford Haven. Part closed owing to Magnetic Mines (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0724/1 to Adty.) Open in daylight only, using QZS which will shortly be promulgated. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1401/1 to Adty.) One Ground Mine self detonated close Eastward of Stack Rock at 1210. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/1 to Adty.)

Gorleston. Two mines exploded near M.L. 111 today 020° South Gorleston Pier Light 1.7 miles (D.S. 424).

Barry, Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea. Barry and ports to Eastward are closed. Incoming traffic being routed to Mumbles. Sailings from Swansea to Eastward stopped. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0800/1 to Adty.) Avonmouth, Newport, Barry, Cardiff now open. Traffic may proceed from Swansea to ports to Eastward. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1755/1 to Adty.)

Hamoaze. Four A/C mines were dropped at 1930 today in the Hamoaze (D.S. 424)

Penlee Point. Magnetic and Accoustic Mines suspected near Penlee Point. Channel will be swept by LL immediately before your arrival. (C.in C. W.A. 0950/1 to NIGERIA).

/ Operation W.S.4A. ....

MOST SECRET.

1. 11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Operation W.S. 4A.

My 1420/30. BULLDOG is the other H.M. Destroyer for W.S. 4A. (C.in C. W.A. 1060/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

SANTA LUCIA

Dutch Motor Vessel, 379 tons. At 0950/1 mined and sunk 044^{8} 3.6 miles from Pile Light, Belfast. Was wiped. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1210/1 to Adty.)

Tyne.

One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by L.L. at 1105/1 in 083° Souter Point 2.7 miles (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1250/1 to Adty.)

Humber.

Closed suspected Minelaying. (F.O. Humber 2247/1 to Adty.)

BLACK SWAN.

At 1017 to-day a mine exploded under stern of BLACK SWAN in position 035 degs. Inchkeith light 1.3 miles. Main engines put out of action. Ship was entering harbour with wheel steady both engines half speed 16 knots. No recent alteration of course and speed.
BLACK SWAN was about 2 cables ahead of H.M. Submarine H 28 also entering harbour, and patrol boat JEANNIE MACKAY. Diesel engine was on parallel course 7 to 8 knots about 3/4 cables South East of BLACK SWAN.
Last occasion of suspected minelaying in vicinity 28/10. EDINBURGH must have passed very close to position when sailing yesterday. (C.in C. Rosyth 1252/1 to Adty.)
Position was swept by LL for both polarities today before the explosion. (C.in C. Rosyth 1501/1 to Adty.)

Proposed Mining of Nymphe, Little Solo, and La Chapelle Banks.

Your 1631/30. Presumed area will not (? be) declared and that we will depart from our observance of this rule of war. This needs to be balanced against problematical value of the proposed field. Line C. would in any case interfere with operations of our S/Ms and is unacceptable. If lines (a) and (b) are laid I suggest they be in same direction so that our ships may know the safest course to steer when crossing the 100 fathom line. (C.in C. H.F. 1334/1 to Adty.)

Bay of Biscay Mined Area.

My 1111/20/9 and 1212/21/9. Amend limits of Bay of Biscay area as follows. (D.M.S. 1800/1 to C's-in-C.)

/ Explosions on Gunfleet .....
Sands.

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Explosions on Gunfleet Sands. Patrol H.R. reports two heavy Explosions S.W. of our position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1914/1 to Adty.) Explosions occurred on Northern and Gunfleet Sands (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2202/1 to Adty.)

Falmouth. Closed. Suspected Mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2000/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

Rosyth. Approach Channel between 2° 52' W. and West Gate, Inchkeith is closed. Methil port and anchorage are open. (C.in C. Rosyth 2155/1 to Adty.)

Fowey. Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2347/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Hospital Towing Barge. Beached 100 yards West of Hope Cape, East of Seaford Head. Description, and fuller details will follow. Propose tow Barge into Newhaven Harbour tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1440/1 and 1745/1 to Adty.)

Lorient)
St. Malo)
Cherbourg) Warships, S/M's, and Shipping. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2200/1 to H.Q.C.C.).

E.Boat. Suspected at 2207 in 52° 5' N. 1° 55' E. (C.in C. Nore 2325/1 to GARTH, HOLDERNESS) E-Boat reported retiring South-Eastwards near Position Z. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2325/1 to GARTH).

Miscellaneous.

Rosyth Command. Exhibition of Lights. C.in C. W.A. 1542/25/8. Intend to substitute following arrangements. (C.in C. Rosyth 1645/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

BRUTUS. To be taken in hand at Tilbury for rudder and engine repairs. She should be sailed accordingly. (D.O.D. H. 1703/1 to C.in C. Nore.).

DOMINIA. My 1535/28/10. Has broken her back in heavy weather. Hope salve forepart for scrap. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/1 to Adty.)

EELOIGNE. (Belgian, 4606 tons) Sailed Milford Haven 18/9 due Bahia Blanca 21/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1802/1 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

GENTIAN
O.B. 236.
H.X. 82.

Whether or not you are in company with O.B. 236 expected to be at 1800/1, 00' N. 15° 30' W. you are to proceed at 2350 so as to meet H.X. 82 in position 55° 35' N. 14° 40' W. at 0800/2 steering towards 56° 00' N. 08° 00' speed 8 knots. (C.in C. W.A. 1743/1 to GENTIAN).

F.N. 24. 25.

F.N. 24 postponed 24 hours.
F.N. 25 (fast) VANITY WOLFHOUND sails 0800.
F.N. 24 (slow) WATCHMAN VERDUN Code word AGENT one until 20 C buoy then LUNCH one sails 0900. Both tomorrow Saturday.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1317/1.)

H.X.82.

LEITH to detach 2 destroyers to meet. Route (C.in C. W.A. 1206/1).

H.X. 82.

H.X. 82. My 1211/22/10.
Twelve other ships are carrying special cargoes. Additional escort should be given if possible. (D.T.D. 1909/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.G. 45.

Escort broken down. Asking if SALOPIAN can act, subsequentlybeing relieved by local escort from Gibraltar. (C.in C.W.A. to F.O.C.N.P. 1950/1). SALOPIAN available. (F.O.C.N.P. 2140/1).

F.N. 24.

Delayed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 2008/31).

F.S. 23.

Escort PINTAIL (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1719/31).

H.X. 83.

Route (D.T.D. 1345/1)

O.B.240.

Route (D.T.D. 1347/1)

F.S. & F.N.

My 1103/26. Amend and continue (C.in C. Rosyth 1951/1).

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 4B.

Date of sailing and capacity of ships. (D. of S.T. 1343/1).

W.S. 4A.

My 1420/30 BULLDOG is the other H.F. destroyer for W.S. 4A (C.in C. W.A. 1050/1)

ADDA.

ADDA will be ready to leave Liverpool (date) 2. C.in C. W.A. to sail and route this ship with her escort to FAROES.
3. N.O.I/c Faroes arrange return journey with as little delay as possible. C.in C. H.F. to provide Destroyer Escort both ways.
4. Fighter protection code word SOLLO.
(D.O.D. (H) 1806/1.)

No subsequent employment. (D. of S.T.1940/1)

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Amended Routes. W.A.C.I. Section D, Part 1. As from Friday 8/11 the following amended routes are to come into force.
Route F. Westward through Pentland Firth,
Route G. Northward from the vicinity of Duncansby Head through South Fair Island Channel, thence through following positions
Route H. Northward from the vicinity of Duncansby Head through South Fair Island Channel, thence through following positions.
Route P. Through following positions thence through Pentland Firth, keeping south of a line. (C.in C. W.A.1151/1).

Operations Against Vichy French.

French S/M's arrived at Dakar. My 1151/31. (i) Further information obtained by DRAGON from French Officer at Bathurst as follows. Four S/Ms and tanker carrying Diesel oil not depot ship definitely arrived Dakar 28th October.
(ii) Following was hearsay only tanker and one S/M sailed repeatedly but remained in sight and returned before dark same day suspected of refuel German U Boat. Consider (ii) of little value and there is no evidence that the tanker has gone south.
(C.in C. S.A. 1105/1 to F.O.C. 1 C.S.)

S.S. SAVOIE See A. and W.I.

CUBA (intercepted 31/10) see also A.& W.I. Admty. 2302/31. If you are directed to take CUBA to Freetown you should pass West of Cape Verde Island. (C.in C. S.A. to MORETON BAY, 1121/1).

No further instructions received. CUBA in company has only four days fuel and food left. My position course and speed are now (? 023°) 55' 026° 50' 062° 10. (MORETON BAY 1100Z/1.)

Your 2230N/31. Report in accordance with Admiralty 2302/31 if sailors are naval ratings or merchant seamen being repatriated and any other details. Also if enquiries apart from books not being produced suggest that any Gold may be on board.
(C.in C. S.A. 1507N/1, to MORETON BAY).

Your 1121/1 CUBA is to be taken to Freetown by circuitous route passing well to the westward of Cape Verde Islands.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1636/1 to C.in C. S.A.).

Your 1636/1 and H.M.S. MORETON BAY 1100/1 Consider best means get ship in will be to proceed for Freetown to approximately 0100 40' N. 022° 00' W. where ship will be met by oiler with provisions if required. If unable to

/fuel ...

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French. (Contd.)

fuel at sea ships is to be towed in. DRAGON now at Bathurst can return, fuel and meet MORETON BAY and CUBA about position 011° 00' N. 024° 30' W. 1600/4. This will be arranged. Fuelling at sea unlikely owing to difference in hose connection. (C.in C. S.A. 1907N/1 to Adty.)

Cruiser. — 31/10 warships which appeared to be a cruiser went round island Saint Michael Azores at average distance of 16 miles being at 1340 G.M.T. in 37° 42' N. 26° 05' W. and at 1845 G.M.T. in 37° 25' N. 25° 17' W. disappearing towards east source (A) Zero. (Lisbon 1639/1 to Adty.)

DJENNE. PROVIDENCE. — French authorities propose to send DJENNE and PROVIDENCE from Casablanca to U.K. to assist in repatriation of French personnel. French N.A. should be informed that they should follow same route as MASSILIA but that it is essential that Adty. should be informed when ships leave Morocco and their expected time of arrival in 52° 00' N, 14° 00' W. (Rd. of M. 1751/1 to N.A. Madrid)

Recognition Signals. — Free French Authorities have issued allied aircraft recognition signals consisting of combination of coloured stars which resemble but do notconform to British recognition signals. Signals change every 10 days and thus liable to compromise. Only alternative to accepting this system is to communicate our own and supply key memorandum to N.C.S.O. Duala. Pending decision on this point intend to inform H.M. Ships in Duala area of French Signals. (F.O.I.C.S. 1129A/1 to C.in C. S.A.).

North Atlantic.

Force H. — E.T.A. Gate 1000. Fuel on arrival. (S.O. Force H to F.O.C.N.A. 0753/1).

Explosive Machines, Gibraltar. — By 2352/30. Parts of another machine recovered. 2 more sets of shallow diving apparatus discovered on bottom, damaged by explosion, possibly indicating 2 men killed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1020/1).

ARK ROYAL. — Asking E.T.A. at Gibraltar (F.O.C. Force H 1523/1) Reply (A.C.N.S.(F) 1553/1)

HOTSPUR — V.A. Malta 1645/28. Request your intentions (re repairs). (C.in C. Med. to F.O.C. N.A., 1337/1)

Situation report. .....

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Situation report. One French type reconnaissance aircraft flew over Rock at height 14,000 feet at 1220 hours today. Dropped to 9,000 feet and disappeared eastwards on being engaged by heavy and light A.A. fire. (Govr., Gib., 2110/1).

CANADA. Your 1238/31/10 CANADA called Gibraltar 0830/1 and given routeing instructions. E.T.A. at 052° 30' N. 014° 00' W. between 2200/4 and midnight 4th - 5th Nov. (F.O.C. N.A. 1025/1 to Adty.)

DUNPARK: suspicious vessel. British ship DUNPARK communicated at 0950/31/10 that she was being pursued by a mysterious vessel in 28° 20' N. 30° W. was not heard any further source (a) zero. (Lisbon 1615/1).

South Atlantic.

Cape Verde Islands. Report that Governor thinks G.B. or U.S. will occupy on sign of Portugal becoming involved in war. Feared air attack from Dakar on office and fuel tanks. (D.N.I. to C.in C. S.A., 1036/1).

Suspicious Vessel. Your 1404/30. Vessel cannot be identified here. (D.D.I.C. to S.O.I., Freetown 1037/1)

Plans to intercept RIO GRANDE. RIO GRANDE sailed 0112 G.M.T./1. ENTERPRISE will cover arc north of 80° from Rio Grande do Sul. ASTURIAS endeavour to cover arc from 95° to southward. QUEEN OF BERMUDA cover arc between 80° and 95° on passage to Buenos Aires. Maximum speed estimated now 12 knots. (R.A.S.A.D., to ASTURIAS, 0857Z/1)

W.S. 3C. Left Capetown 1/11. E.T.A. Aden (date) (Capt. i/c. Simonstown 1130 Z/1).

BELGIQUE due Bahia Blanca 21/10 from Milford Haven 18/9 has not arrived (S.O.(I) Freetown 1802/1)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Cannot dock at Capetown. Proposing that repairs be postponed until voyage to Mombasa completed. Reasons. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1707 B/1 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

1. 11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA. retubing. Your 1457/20. Possibility of Italians having 6 capital ships in near future. Proposals re MALAYA retubing. (1 S.L., to C.in C. Med., 0047/1) See Mediterranean Volume.

URSULA. Request instructions for onward passage. (F.O.C. N.A. to C.in C. Med., 1120/1).

Air attacks on enemy landing grounds and bases. Night 30/31 Oct. Tobruk attacked. R.C. of const 31/10. Remainder military (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1430/1).

Enemy and Greek Intelligence. Summary of aircraft reports (V.A. Malta 1359/1).

FORMIDABLE. Proposals re (1st S.L. 1955/1 to C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Report. Action off Matruh, Jerawla, Qasaba. 8 enemy A/C destroyed, 4 damaged; 5 British lost or damaged but 3 pilots sage. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1431/1, 1432/1).

Air Attack on Naples. One probable hit in refinery area, one near miss railway junction. Proposals for renewed attacks (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1640/1)

Air R.C. Malta Situation report to 1700/1 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1340/1).

French Fleet. Reply to Admty. 1649/28. My view whatever happens Adm. Godfroy will himself give no order for offensive action against us nor attempt to break out of harbour. Danger of an internal coup. (C.in C. Med., 2145/1).

Operation, M.W.3. BARHAM. My 1315/30. Necessary to defer sailing of Fleet (date) to enable M.T. ships and oilers for Suda Bay to be included in M.W.3. Sailing of BARHAM should consequently be deferred by one day. (C.in C. Med., 1829/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.11.1940. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Italian Campaign Against Greece.

British Mission. C.O.S. telegram 22 to Sir M. Palairet, Athens, proposing one Mission dealing with Naval, Military and Air Liaison, Rear Adm. Turle at its head. (D.C., 0041/1, to C.in C. Med.)

Help to Greece. Urging importance of in preference to help to Turkey in the spring. (Brit. Minister, Athens, 0346/1, and Mr. Campbell, no T.O.O. (1, both to F.O.)

Greek war plans. and assistance required now of British (N.A. Athens 1125/1, 1400/1) See Mediterranean Volume.

A/S, M/S, A/F, etc. In order to provide craft suitable for these duties N.A. Athens is requested to charter vessels in Greek ports (A.C.N.S.C.F.) 2029/1)

Sitation. From Military Attache to D.M.I. Presence of air units in Greece and operations against Italians in Albania essential if morale of civil population is to be kept up. Aid in Crete is considered inoffensive self-help, neither Staff nor population fear Italian invasion by sea while our fleet is afloat. (M.A. Athens 0200/1 to W.O.)

Operations 29/10-1/11 My 2159/28. Fleet left Alexandria at 0030/29. Period 30/10 to P.M./1 was spent in sweep on west coast of Greece as far as latitude 038° 30' N. Air reconnaissance as far as Corfu and Coast of Italy was carried out. Fleet went close to coast in order to be seen and two Tribals visited Navarin. No enemy ships seen at sea. Shore based reconnaissance reported Italian main units in harbour throughout and only one small Merchant ship seen in Straits of Otranto. Course was set for Alexandria at 1800/1.

During this time convoy reported in my 0853/31 established party and stores at Suda Bay and was joined on 1/11 AJAX transporting Yorks and Lancashire Regt. WRYNECK and FARNHAM, and Oiler OLNA now sailing for Piraeus.
No sighting of Fleet by aircraft took place till 1120/30 and even then report was very probably from a submarine. Fleet was reported on 31/10 and 1/11 and on latter day Fulmars shot down one Cant 506 and damaged another. (C.in C. Med., 2159/1, 2201/1).

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CHAKDINA Bombed — CHAKDINA was bombed while on Perim Patrol at 0540 G.M.T./31. No damage reported. (C.in C. E.I. 0242 Z/1).

MAURETANIA. — Asking whether D. of S.T. will sanction accommodation being offered to approx. 200 passengers (S.S.T.O. Colombo 0702/1) Reply, see 2015/3.

H.S. Convoys. — Asking that he may be informed as early as possible of certain particulars. Complaint of insufficient information. Details. (C.in C. E.I. 0622Z/1 to D. of S.T.)

EARLAER / WESTBURN / PERSEUS — At Suez, insufficient speed for convoy. Most undesirable they should be immobilized at Suez. Request you consider sailing them ahead of H.S. 8, time of sailing being adjusted so that maximum cover is provided in most dangerous area. (D.T.D. 1521/1 to C.in C. E.I.)

GNAT. — Cancel GNAT'S 1420/26/10. Programme now. GNAT and oiler SLAVOL left KHOR KUWAI 31/10, due Aden 0700Z/3, fuelling KHORYA MORYA Bay. (C.in C. E.I. 0624Z/1.)

A/L Requisitioned CHAKDINA and STELLA ROMANA — R.A. Malaya's 0500/27/10 and S.S.T.O. India's 1140/31/10. It appears Masters, some upper deck and all engineer officers will have to be provided from U.K. If this can be arranged request probable date of arrival so that despatch of available personnel from India can be timed. (C.in C. E.I. 0724Z/1).

Sinking of enemy destroyer by KIMBERLEY and R.A.F. bombing of destroyer 21/10. — My 1500/27/10.
(i) Photograph taken at 1245 G.M.T. 21/10 just after hitting bomb was released but before bomb struck shows the position of the bombed destroyer was 16° 31.5' N. 40° 11.3' E.
(ii) FRANCESCO NULLO was sunk by torpedo 0535 G.M.T. 21/10. Pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft saw this ship lying on her side beneath the water on 23/10.
(iii) KIMBERLEY reports that measurement of splinters indicates that shell which hit ship was approximately seven inches. Nosecap about five inches shell also found on board fired from shore. Position of battery 016° 31' N. 040° 11' E. Four fixed guns. Maximum range 15000 yds. (C.in C. E.I. 0946Z/1.)

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

D.S.M. Co-operation. My 1044/21 and your 0817/22. Re Comdr. Wisdon joining C.in C., Asiatic Fleet, and cypher and special table to be taken. Production of S.P.'s essential for co-operation of two fleets is in hand. (D.N.I. 1549/1 to C.in C. China).

Shanghai Shipping. Admty. 1133/24. List of ships due to depart Shanghai shortly. Considered most will be required for Government service. (C.in C. China, 0661/1).

Conference. Telegraph summary of report has been sent to Adty. in C.in C's cypher. (C.in C. China 060237/1 for A.N.C.B.)

Discussion with Australia re military supplies. (C.O.C., Malaya to W.O. 1825/1).

De Schmaze. Re establishing basis of operations (C.in C. China 10617/1).

Dutch Co-operation. Interchange of information agreed to by Dutch Govt. (1st S.L. 2152/1 to C.in C. China). Questionnaire (1st S.L. 2236/1 to C.in C. China).

Far East Combined Intelligence Bureau. Ref. 85000 cipher (M.O.2) 21/10. In para. 7 for War Office read Admiralty (W.O. 2015/1).

America and West Indies.

CAMERON GEORGETOWN. Your 1549/31, re sailing for U.K. Yes, provided you are satisfied as to their seagoing efficiency. They may be retained if necessary to sail with Group due to leave St. Johns N.F. on 3/11. (F.O. 3 E.S. 0314/1)

Martinique JEANNE D'ARC. U.S.A. Patrol. Navy Dept. inform me that U.S. Naval observation has been established at Martinique off Fort de France, and what ever port JEANNE D'ARC may be in, consisting of one destroyer off each place with daylight patrols by aircraft. They have been directed to maintain contact in case of movement. (N.A. Washington 1219/1 to Adty.)

CUBA. (see Vichy French). Navy Dept. inform me of information received from Martinique that 1200 French Naval reservists left there for Casablanca in French S.S. CUBA at 1700/24/10. (B.N.A. Washington 1224/1 to Adty.)

/ S.S. SAVOIE .....

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

S.S. SAVOIE — Navy Department informs me of report from Casablanca that S.S. SAVOIE with Senegalese soldiers and equipment leaves there today November 1st for Dakar.
(N.A. Washington 1230/1 to Adty.)

ARUBA
BONAIRE — My 1036/26/10 Curacao reports Dutch ship ARUBA expected ready for sea about 20/11 Dutch Ship BONAIRE not until new year.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1252/1.)

Bermuda
C.C.Centre. — Your 1931/22/10. Concur. One Lieutenant Commander R.N.R. with Contraband experience will be sent from U.K. at first opportunity. Proceed with local organisation forthwith. Commencing today all communications will pass between Adty. and C.in C.
(D.E.W.D. 1016/1 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

H.X. 85.
Town class
destroyers. — HALIFAX departures 1/11 ASSINBOINE local escort RAJPUTANA ocean escort H.X. 85. 2nd groups 4th Town Destroyer FLOTILLA, LEWES LISDS, MONTGOMERY, STANLEY, CHURCHILL, SHERWOOD United Kingdom via St. John's N.F.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 2051/1.)

Australia.

HOBART
PERTH
CANBERRA. — Intend to relieve HOBART by PERTH at Aden about 12/12. PERTH will escort U.S.7 to 020° N. in the Red Sea. Flag of F.O. Australia Squadron will be transferred temporarily to CANBERRA about 18/11 and subsequently to HOBART about 18/12.
(N.B. Melbourne 11512/1)

Dutch patrols. — Your 1218/26. View held here is that proposed use of mandated territorial waters by Dutch would not consitute establishment of naval base and would not therefore be infringement of mandate. On account of additional distance involved, use of Papua as alternative would be unsatisfactory. Request therefore that decision may be reconsidered in light of above.
(Hd. of M. 1630/1 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RIO GRANDE. Sailed from Rio Grande do Sul at 2210 local time 31/10. (C.in C. S.A. to S.A. Sqdn., 0530 1/11, S.O.I., Montevideo 01467/1, 02307/1) Plans to intercept - see South Atlantic. To be reported by W/T if sighted. Description.(Freetown W/T 0754/1 to All British M.V's.).

CHIPKA Bulgarian, under German charter, arrived Galatz from Istanbul 30/10 with general cargo for Germany (D.S. 423).

TRAPANI. Reported put on the Genoa, Barcelona, Tarragona, Valencia run.
Last reported at Genoa. (D.S. 424).

GALILEA. At Palermo, requires inspection of shaft and bottom. (D.S. 424).

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1106. D.F. probable U/B 56.20 N., 13.40 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1147/1).

0325 and 1044. 58° to 60° N., 18° to 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S., 423).

1206. 50 to 100 miles radius of 49° N., 11° W., position indefinite (D.S. 424).

1022A. F/48 reports on landing CALENDULA signalled 1022 that she had made contact by Asdic in position 54° 28' N. 5° 05' W. and was leaving convoy on bearing of 260° to investigate. A/C remained with her until 1140 when CALENDULA signalled that she had lost contact with supposed submarine. A/C then proceeded on patrol. (Aldergrove 1400/1).

Estimated U/B dispositions. Italian - No news.
German - Probably 5 in N.W. Approaches and farther W. of which 1 was in about 56° 20' N. 13° 40' W. at 1106/1.
1 in Area 58° to 60° N: 18° to 20° West at 1044/1: a third may be somewhere about 55° N. and W. of 20° W. and a fourth possibly in area 56° N. 9° to 10° W; whereabouts of fifth unknown.
1 possibly between Faroes and Scotland homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1237/1).

Submarines Attacked.

U. 237. sunk 30/10. Arrived HIGHLANDER with 4 U/B prisoners. Also arrived HARVESTER (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0145/1).

1610. Suspected U/B attacked by A/C 57.50 N., 1.55 W. (B.4). (D.S. 424).

Your 1330 not to H.M.S. VERDUN.
H.M.S. WATCHMAN's transmitter may be out of action. FS 23 estimated expected time of arrival at position S 1400.
1401/1.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

An usuccessful attempt was made to bomb the Forth Bridge last night.

Both F.N. Convoys were unsuccessfully attacked several times this afternoon in the Thames Estuary.

SS STROGHVALD was attacked 4 miles east of Todhead early this afternoon.

Ships of Convoy W.N. 26 stranded off Rattray Head were bombed this evening, but no damage appears to have been caused.

4 bombs were dropped near the Nore Light Vessel at 0100 today.

SS HOUSTON CITY (mined and beached 21/10 near Caze Deep) was bombed again today (see 1/11). Salvage operations have been abandoned.

M/S Trawler SICYON was machine-gunned 8 miles East of Scapa this afternoon.

Surrey Commercial Docks were attacked this evening and a bomb fell near the centre of the yard.

Considerable damage to private property occurred in a raid on Ramsgate this morning. Other Coastal towns in Kent were also attack

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

INTREPID was mined off Hartlepool early this morning. Both engines were damaged, but she reached Hartlepool.

M/S Trawler RINOVIA was mined and sunk off Falmouth this morning.

P.L.A. Tugs DEANBROOK and LEA were sunk in Tilbury Basin this morning by a magnetic or acoustic mine.

M/S Trawler RADNOR CASTLE and Patrol vessel MEDOC were damaged by the detonation of a mine at Plymouth and were beached.

Another small wooden drifter with diesel engine was blown up off Inchkeith today. C. in C., Rosyth considers this appears to confirm that the sound or vibration of the diesel ~~direct~~ engine actuates the acoustic mine; and this may assist to solve the problem of sweeping these mines.

Rosyth was completely opened at 1743.
Humber was opened at 0820.

Mines were found today at Belfast, Dover, Plymouth, Harwich and Humber. Cardiff, Avonmouth, Newport, Swansea and Barry were closed at 0700.

Between 2100/1 and 0100/2 mine laying raids by enemy aircraft were reported in the Firth of Forth and Firth of Tay. Minelaying aircraft were also active last night off the East Coast and Thames Estuary.

6 Hampdens last night laid mines in the Brest area.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

C. in C. Meditn. reports troops and guns landed and net defence established at Suda Bay. The majority of his force has left for Alexandria.

Two air raids were made on Malta between 1130 and 1230 today, and some damage was done to Luqa aerodrome. Two enemy planes were destroyed (one by A/A fire) and probably a third, and two damaged.

Consul General, Salonika reports that great destruction and loss of life have been caused in the centre of Salonika by Italian bombing. After the latest raid 500 casualties, mostly women and shildren were treated. The hospitals are full and medical supplies almost exhausted.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

2 Blenheims today attacked the main pier supply depot, and warehouses at Assab.

Enemy aircraft attacked Perim, no damage was caused.

KIMBERLEY was unsuccessfully bombed off Jebel Zukur Island (Red Sea) this morning.

China

C. in C., China reports that the situation in Indo China is gradually deteriorating as regards British interests

Exports to all countries are allowed wxcept to the British Empire. No British ships are allowed in Indo China Ports. He suggest the time has come to retaliate.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 0200/2. (D.C. 0201/2) At 1400/2 (D.C. 1406/2)

Movements

Nore Command — Movements for night 2/3. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/2 Movements to 1200/3. (C. in C., Nore 1200/2)

Dover — Patrols for night 2/3. (V.A. Dover 1426/2)

PEONY, SALVIA, GLOXINIA, HYACINTH — My 1518/1. PEONY and SALVIA should be sailed for Liverpool as soon as possible. Stores for all ships being sent to Liverpool. Ships to be ready to sail on 8/11 (D.C.D. H. 1617/2 to C. in C., Nore)

CURACOA — F.O.C.D.F. H.F. 1025/2. Can be berthed in basin, entering about 1700/4. (N. Supt. Rosyth 1808/2 to C. in C., H.F.)

NORTHERN SPRAY — Using Route P. (NORTHERN SPRAY 2300/2 to A.C.C.S.)

Operations

Convoy Shelled — C.E. 15 passed Dover. About 8 rounds from Calais Battery fell near No. 1. Buoy. No damage reported. (V.A. DOver 0645/2 to Adty.)

Operation FRUIT — My 1839/1. Operation cancelled for today owing to high visibility. (V.A. Dover 0843/2 to H.[illegible].F.C.)

Operation WHITE — Adty's 2231/31. Route for ARGUS and DESPATCH from Clyde to Gibraltar. Destroyer escort VESPER, VENOMOUS, WINDSOR remain in company as far West as endurance permits and then fuel at Londonderry and to Nore via Rosyth. (C. in C., W.A. 1651/2 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Your 1313/30. ARGUS proceeds to Greenock 1200/3, loading having been completed. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1734/2 to Adty)

/Adty. 2231/31.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation WHITE-Contd.

Adty. 2231/31. Amend as follows. Para 1. DISPATCH and ARGUS to be sailed a.m./7 so as to enter Straits of Gibraltar after dark on 13/11. Para 2. Cancel reference to HURRY. Both ships to join Force H. from arrival at Gibraltar until completion of Operation WHITE. (A.C.N.S. F. 2325/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

2 E-Boats off Aldeburgh

LADY SHIRLEY on patrol H.U. reports that last night at about 2210 sighted E boat stopped 2 miles S.S.E. from Aldeburgh Float. Opened fire at about 300 yards with 12 pdr. and Lewis gun. No reply from E.Boat who immediately made off at high speed to the S.E. A second E-Boat was seen disappearing at high speed just before fire was opened. It appears likely that mines had been laid to the south of Aldeburgh light float but to the eastward of 148 L.V.S. Failure to sink E-Boat was mainly due to lack of illuminants. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1229/2 to C. in C., Nore.)

Submarines

O. 24.

Reports attacked Northbound M/V 1200 tons off Holmengraa at 0900/29/10. Estimates not hit. Regular Air Patrols between Holmengraa and Kors Fiord. (V.A.S. 0957/2 to Adty.)

TRIDENT

Intend sail, escorted by SURPRISE, at 0800/3 from Clyde for Plymouth. E.T.A. 0900/5. (S. 2. 1023/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

H. 43.

In harbour (C. in C., W.A. 1600/2)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/3 (V.A.S. 1631/2)

L. 27.

In H. 2. and S. 3. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1747/2)

Proposed re-distribution of Submarines and Depot Ships

Your 1829/1. Approved (V.C.N.S. 2111/2 to V.A.S.)

/TAKU.....

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

TAKU
TUNA } My 1902/28. For 40 miles read 20 miles. Capt S. 2. 2154/2. to TUNA)

Provision of S/M's for A/S Training and Practices — C. in C., W.A.'s 1331/12. Decision as to allocation of S/M's (V.C.N.S. 1143/2)

British Air Activity

Air Reconnaissance — None possible on night 1/2. (C. in C., Nore 0639/2)

Patrol H.C. — A.C.O.S. 7818/19/9. Times from 4/11 to 10/11 (Hatston 0955/2)

Fighters for Shetlands — F.O.C's 0910/31. Request F.O.C.S. be asked to take up matter directly with A.O.C. 14 Group (Air Ministry 1114/2 to Adty.) Your 0910/31. Air Ministry concur and request you arrange direct with 14 Group R.A.F. (D. of L.D. 1206/2 to F.O.C.S.)

Patrol S.A. 2. — Cancelled this p.m. except 2 southern tracks (C. in C., Rosyth 1344/2 to Adty.) A.M. sortie cancelled by Coastal Command until further notice. (C. in C., Rosyth 1508/2 to Adty.)

Belfast. Orders to Ships to fire on A/C — Your 1737/31. Request that present arrangements be allowed to stand. Reasons. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1446/2 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Nore L.V. — Danube 5 reports at 0100 Four whistling bombs dropped from aircraft passing West to East and exploded in approx. position 11 cables 078° from Nore L.V.(D.O.D. Sheerness 0250/2 to C. in C., Nore) (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1115/2 to C. in C., Nore.)

Horsea Island — 2 bombs dropped at 1200/1. Minor damage, estimate £22. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth, 1045/2 to C.E. in C.)

/Attack on.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Attack on Enemy Aircraft at night by M/V's in Convoy.

My 1715/1. Amend second sentance to read With this exception any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range should immediately be engaged as hitherto. (D.T.D. 1148/2 to A.I.G.)

-DEANBROOK LEA

Tugs. Sunk by H.E. Bombs in Tilbury Basin at 1130. 5 dead, 4 missing, 3 wounded. No warning of aircraft. (F.O.I.C. London. 1325/2.
Now certain they were sunk by magnetic or acoustic mine, not bombs. (F.O.I.C. London 1250/3)

Convoy AGENT

Enemy bombing Convoy in 51° 41' N., 1° 20'E 2 bombs, no hits.(WOLFHOUND 1325 and 1337/2) Bombing convoy (WOLFHOUND 1449/2) Many bombs, no hits (WOLFHOUND 1452/2) Bombs. No hits (WOLFHOUND 1505 and 1512/2)

SICYON

M/S Trawler. Gunned by aircraft at 1430/1 in 58° 52' N., 2° 37' W. (A.C.O.S. 1414/2 to Admty.)

Convoy F.N. 25

Aircraft bombing Convoy PILOT in 58° N., 1° 48' E., (WOLFHOUND 1604/2)

Ramsgate

Attacked at 1125/2 by 10 to 30 Bombers with large Fighter Escort. At least 75 H.E. Bombs dropped. Damage. 6 civilians killed and 23 injured. No naval damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. 1630/2 to Adty.)
Further report. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1123/3)

Rattray Head

At 1818/2 Rattray Coastguards reported unidentified aircraft flying south at 1814 and then reported bombs dropping in vicinity of ships stranded in Strathbeg Bay. At 1825 Rattray reported planes had made off in a southerly direction. Ships do not appear to be damaged.
Two salvoes were dropped and owing to darkness cannot ascertain if any damage done. (C. in C., Rosyth 2259/2 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

HUIDVAAG (Norwegian, 690 tons)	Ship mined about 1 to 2 cables West of No 1 Buoy formerly South Goodwin L.V. Not been possible to mark wreck. (V.A.Dover 0001/ and 0055/2 to PERMIE) Sunk at 1950/1. 14 survivors and pilot arrived Dover in ship's boat. One missing and one injured. (V.A.Dover 0730/2 to Adty.)
INTREPID	Mine exploded close to starboard quarter in 54° 39' N., 0° 53' W. Both engines out of action. Request Tug. (INTREPID 0243/2 to C. in C., Nore.) Am proceeding towards Hartlepool. Tug not now wanted. (INTREPID 0329/2 to C. in C., Nore)
Tyne	Closed. Suspected Mining. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0745/2) Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1001/2)
Milford Haven	Closed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0745/2) Open in daylight only, subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1226 and 1916/2) One Red Mine detonated by single LL in 260° No 4 buoy one cable. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1849/2)
Humber	Open (F.OHumber 0820/2) M/S Trawler MONIMIA and 19 Group begin sweeping at 2100/2 from Gheringham Light Buoy to 62.D.Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Humber 1720/2 to EGLINTON)
	Self-detonated Mines exploded. At 0930/2 in 68° 1A Buoy 4 miles, at 1620/2 in 117° P.W.S.S. 2.25 miles, at 1650/2 in 117° P.W.S.S. 2.15 miles (F.O.Humber 1820/2 to Admty.)
Cardiff Avonmouth Newport Swansea Barry	Closed at 0700/2. Suspected Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0952/2)
Belfast	LL detonated one small Red Mine 50° 3.8 miles from Pile Light (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0955/2)

/RINOVIA.....

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

RINOVIA — (M/S Trawler) Mined and sunk 15½ St. Anthony Light 2.9 miles. 4 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1056/2)

Dover — 1 mine cut by Oropesa Trawlers in QZS 105 1.2 miles 35° from No 4 Buoy. (V.A.Dover 1251/2)

DEANBROOK
LEA — See Air

Plymouth — One Red Mine detonated by LL at 0825/2 in 189° 3.6 miles from Breakwater Light. (C. in C., W.A. 1536/2)

Owing to presence of mines in Hamoaze it has become necessary to stop all traffic above Flag Staff steps. H.M.S. REVENGE has been berthed in No 5 Basin and could not proceed out of harbour without considerable risk. (C. in C., W.A. 1942/2 to Admty.)

RADNOR CASTLE
MEDOC — 1. My 0102/2. Oropesa trawler RADNOR CASTLE has detonated mine near number eight buoy Hamoaze. Several minor casualties to personnel. RADNOR CASTLE damaged and beached on Torpoint side. Slight damage also to F.B. MEDOC beached on Yoderberry Point Trot. Mine was detonated by manoeuvring engines of trawler and it seems certain that it was operated on the acoustic principle.

2. Mine with parachute attached is situated near Bull Point nearly vertical. Nearly three feet of mine above mud at low water. Mine is marked in Green D. 350. (C. in C., W.A. 1946/2 to Adty.)

Firth of Forth
Drifter Mined — Another small wooden drifter with diesel 3 cylinder 66 H.P. engine blown up by a mine today in 072° Inchkeith Light 750 yards. Two similar motor drifters were in the vicinity. This would appear to confirm that the sound or vibration of a diesel engine provokes the acoustic mine and if these sounds or vibrations can be reproduced and projected the problem of sweeping the acoustic mine in Approach Channels can be largely solved. (C. in C., Rosyth 1603/2 to Adty.)

/Rosyth....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Rosyth	Cancel my 2155/1. Rosyth Approach Channel between 2° 52' W., and West Gate Inchkeith is open. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1743/2 to Adty)
Harwich	3 Fleet Sweepers continued clearance. One Mine cut 51° 59.3' N., 1° 45.8' E., Two mines found in sweep near 54 A Buoy, exact position unknown. (P.O.I.C. Harwich 1803/2 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

3 Destroyers off Ile Vierge	At 0802/2, course 250° speed 30 knots. Aircraft report (C. in C., W.A. 1019/2 to C.S. 19 and V.A.S. 1034/2 to submarines Area B)
Shetlands	One small slow vessel at 2042/1 bearing 158° 3 miles from Sumbrough, course 037°, speed 10½ knots. Unidentified. (A.C.H.Q. 1203/2 to Adty.)
German Hospital Towing Barge	My 1440/1. Amendment of description as to W/T equipment. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1300/2 to Admty.)
Brest	5 destroyers and 2 M/V's seen 2/11. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1335/2 to H.Q. 15 (C. in C., W.A. 1501/2 to C.S. 10)
Norwegian Coast	Indications of southward movement from Trondheim to Skaggerak. Unit expected arrive S.W. Norwegian Area today. (V.A.S. 1612/2 to STURGEON)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

WOLVES — A/S Trawler. A/S gear out of action. (N.O.I.C Oban 0106/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

ST. CYRUS — Tug. My 1535/21/10. Repairs completed 1200/1 and now ready for duty. (F.O.Humber 0955/2 to Adty.)

ORANEY — Refloated 1615/1. Expect dock p.m/2. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1001/2)

QUEY — My 0945/B/31. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Capetown 1015/B/2)

LORD MELCHETT — My 1740/30. Expects sail p.m./4 (F.O.I.C. 1645/2)

MIDSTONE — British, 3192 tons. At anchor Lough Coyle. Steering gear disabled. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2101/2)

DAHLIA — British (5000 tons) carrying military stores went ashore about 0300 G.M.T. 31st October about 7 miles north of Mombasa. Cargo is being unloaded into lighter. Earliest possible date of refloating 15th November. Unlikely to refloat before 30th November. (C. in C., E.Indies 12022/2nd to Admty.)

Boat — Aircraft report boat had small sail and appeared to be making for coast. Boat may fire red flares and was given 4 flame floats. At 0815/3 be in position 090° Duncansby Head 20 miles to co-operate with air search from Wick. (R.A.D. H.F. 2345/2 to DOUGLAS)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

Situation at 2000/2 (C. in C., W.A. 1440/2)

F.N. 25 — WOLFHOUND escorting. Code word Pilot. (C. in C., Nore, 1543/2)

H.X. 83 — 7 hours late. (ARCANIA, 1700/2) Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 1615/2 to ACTIVE, ACHATES, ANTELOPE, PICOTEE)

H.X. 86 — Ocean escort VOLTAIRE, returning to Halifax (R.A. 3 B.S. 1037/2)

O.B. 238 — O.B. 238 (non evasive) sailed 1250/2 8 ships 9 knots escort CASTLETON, WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER, FLEUR DE LYS. (N.S.C.O. Liverpool, 1501/2)

Intend sailing COLNBRA damaged gun platform and short 250 tons oil fuel also FLAMINIAN damaged topsides in company with Convoy O.B. 238 to R/V off Oversay after which Trawler WOLVES will escort these two ships to Greenock. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1651/2)

O.B. 240 — Details and routes (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1802/2

O.G. 45 — Detach SALONIAN at 1200/2 to join as ocean escort. (C. in C., W.A. o CORNWALL, 0122/2) Estimate SALONIAN will join O.G. 45 before dark 3/11 to take over ocean escort. (C. in C., W.A. 1441/2 to WANDERER, CLARE, WILD SWAN) Sailing telegram (C. in C., W.A. 1941/2)

S.C. 9. — Amend route (C. in C., W.A. 1607/2, to DEPTFORD)

O.B.M. Milford Haven — In the event of anchorage at Milford Haven becoming restricted through enemy mining it is proposed to use Barry Roads as Assembly Port for O.B.M. Convoys. Request your remarks. (C. in C., W.A. 1909/2)

H.G. 46 — Escort INGLEFIELD, WELLINGTON. Position (F.O.C.N.A., to ARK ROYAL 2220/2)

Air Escort — Your 1340/29, re Air escort for independently routed fast ships for U.K. is not clear. Ship of 14 knots arriving 010° West at 0600 would arrive Clyde or Belfast the same day as date in Vesca (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1100/2 to Admty.)

M.N. 29 — WOLVES failed to locate remainder. A/S gear out of action (N.O.I.C. Oban, 0106/2)

M.N. 30 — 1047/2. Trawlers NORTHERN WAVE, SAON. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1152/2)

/M.N. Lights.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
M.M. Lights	Your 1645/1, re exhibition of various lights Concur. W.A.C.I.'s will be amended. (C. in C. W.A. 1935/2)
BAUDOUIN	Falmouth closed, intend sailing BAUDOUIN 1700/2. Portland unescorted to Milford Haven. for onward routeing to Invergordon. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1058/2) Postponed, weather (1409/2)
Risks of Collison	Warning to Commodores always to keep to starboard side of centre line of swept channels, to reduce risk of collision in foggy weather and long nights. (D.T.D., 1612/2 to A.I.C. 47)
Troop Convoys	
FRANCONIA WINDSOR CASTLE	Admty. 1340/29 and 1509/31. Route and personnel (D.T.D., 1201/2, to C. in C., W.A)
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA	Due Clyde 3/11 with 71 officers and 2339 O.R. for disembarkation, Gourock (D.S.T. 1638/2)
ALMANZORA HIGHLAND MONARCH MARICK CASTLE CLAN LAMONT CLAN CHATTAN	Sailed. Details of personnel (P.S.T.O. Clyde 2000/2)
W.S. 4 A	Sailed CORNWALL, CAIRO, BALOEIAN, OTTAWA, SKEENA, SAGUENAY, HESPERUS, BEAGLE, BULLDOG escorting Clyde portion of convoy W.S. 4 A in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1545/28. BALOEIAN to part company in accordance with F.O.C.N.P. 2220/30 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0206/2)

To avoid U-Boat reported in 56° 12' N. 10° 12' W. W.S. 4 A alter course forthwith to pass through 55° 00' N., 12° 00' W. then 54° 00' N., 25° 00' W then route previously ordered. (C. in C., W.A. 1415/2 to CORNWALL etc.)

/ADDA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Troop Convoys Contd.

ADDA

Admty. 1805/1. Owing to exposed anchorage Thorshaven and other local considerations it may be necessary to effect transfer militray in Skaale Fiord. Request ADDA and escorts may be informed accordingly and warned of floating mines in Faroese Waters (N.O.I.C. Findyres, 1549/2)

STRATHAIRD ORCADES

STRATHAIRD is to be kept in company if possible. Route for STRATHAIRD and ORCADES from 52° 00' N., 21° 00' W., and thence to Clyde.
Instruct liners that, in order to minimise risk of air attack, they are to cross the meridian of 10° 00' W., at 0600 B.S.T. on day before arrival. (C. in C., W.A. 1945/2 to KENYA)

BERA. Swedish Tanker

Swedish Admty informs me that representations are being made by their Minister at London to obtain permission for tanker BERA to bring fuel oil and petrol from Gulf of Mexico for use of Swedish Navy. German consent has been obtained and Sweden would be grateful if British Admiralty would also grant permission. (N.A. Stockholm 1542/2)

Aircraft W. of 7° W.

When to the Westward of 7° West, merchant ships in convoy have been instructed not to open fire on aircraft at night unless they are attacked. With this exception any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range of merchant ships' or fishing vessels' guns may be engaged immediately by day or night.
Admty. 1059/27/8 is cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1248/2)

Aircraft at Night

My 1715, re merchant ships in convoy opening fire on aircraft at night, amend second sentence to read: With this exception any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range should immediately be engaged as hitherto.
(D.T.D. 1148/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

SAVOIE — Reported left Casablanca 1/11 for Dakar with Senegalese soldiers and equipment (D.D.I.C. 0748/2)

CANADA
SAN FRANCISCO
WINNIPEG — Repatriation of Frenchmen, arrive home waters (dates (D.D.D. (H) 1522/2)

French Prisoners, Dakar — 55. Your 1809/25, re exchange of prisoners. French officer who crossed frontier from Dakar into Gambia 30/10 states he believes that Bois Lambert is still in hospital at Dakar, wounded and awaiting trial be special commission coming from France in about 14 days. Scamaroni has been detained at Dakar. Souffflet, Caillet, Pecunia, Sallerin, Joimassi and Moulenes have been removed to Koulikor. (C. in C., S.A., 1703/2 to Admty.)

French Aircraft — Sighted French Vichy aircraft at 1700 in position 070° B 12 who kept well clear but afterwards circled PRESIDENT HOUDUCE more closely. Latter reported her as probably Glen Martin type but she did not approach close enough to DEVONSHIRE to confirm this with certainty. Aircraft last seen making for Libreville. (DEVONSHIRE 1841/2 to F.O.I.C.S.)

French M.V. — Report received from Master Belgian MOBEKA on arrival Takoradi of sighting Vichy French merchant vessel at 1600 G.M.T./26/10 in position 008° 30' N., 019° 40' W., course S.S.E. Description old passenger ship of about 8000 tons gross tonnage fully loaded. (C. in C., S.A. 1037/2)

Dakar Troopships — My 1606/24 to D. of N.I., re arrival of troopships at Dakar. N.C.S.O. Para reports arrival 30/10 AFFONSO PENNA and ITAPE, latter with 8 German Seamen. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0802/2 to Admty.)

/CUBA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

CUBA
Interception

You are to proceed at 1800/2 to R.V. with DRAGON and MORETON BAY in company with French ship CUBA in position 010° 40' N., 022° 00' W., at noon 3/11. After making contact you are to act as ordered by DRAGON and to be prepared to fuel CUBA at sea if possible. (C. in C., S.A. 1315/2 to OLWEN.)

Your 1121/1 and Admty 1636/1 acknowledged. My position course and speed are Noon N/2 021° 05' 027° 19', 183° 12. CUBA in company Intend to pass through position 014° 27', 027° 35' at 2000 N/3 thence to rendezvous in your 1315N/2 (MORETON BAY to C. in C., S.A. 1800N/2)

My 1800N/2. Part two.
Have placed Liaison Officer and one telegraphist on board. Relations amenable at present but absolute breakdown started last night with steering gear, now reports cannot do more than 12 knots.
Following possibilities
(1) A staged complete breakdown off Cape Verde Is.
(2) A prearranged rendezvous with Dakar ships. Despite denial have definte proof by bearings and ranges that ship was on south-east course when intercepted.
Some Naval ratings time expired but not clear why remainder being sent back. No confirmation of gold. Book not produced when all cargo manifest asked for. Have not asked direct questions in case steps should be taken to hide in the event of search at sea. (MORETON BAY, 1805N/2, to C. in C., S.A.)

MASSILIA
DJIENNE
VICTORIA

Your 1751/1. Following from French Admty. has crossed it (Begins)
(1) MASSILIA will leave Casablanca 4/11 and will follow route instructed. Ordered DJIENNE leave Marseilles 1/11 and will make her arrival Gibraltar 4/11 by daylight. She has orders to follow same route as MASSILIA and will probably be at point D 9/11.
(3) French N.A. will be informed immediately date VICTORIA can sail is known (ends)
As DJIENNE has sailed submit she be asked proposed time of arrival in 52° N., 14° W when passing Gibraltar, 2042/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD

Admty. 2211/29. Leave patrol to arrive Gibraltar a.m./5. (S.O.Force H., 0926/2) My 0926. Fuel permitting, for a.m./5 read a.m./6. (F.O.Force H., 2133/2)

Reported that on 31/10 a warship which appeared to be a cruiser went round island Saint Michael Azores at average distance of 16 miles being 1345 G.M.T. in 37° 25' N., 25° 17' W., disappearing towards East. If no reply is received from you it will be assumed that this ship was SHEFFIELD. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1345/2 to SHEFFIELD)

ARK ROYAL

Admty. 1553/1. Adjust speed to arrive norther entrance at 1700Z-1,5/11, WISHART and VIDETTE will sail to R.V. with you. (F.O.C.N.A., to ARK ROYAL, 1544/2) Amended orders (F.O.C.N.A., 1208/2)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Your 1723/29. Request you defer sailing from Freetown (date) (F.O.C.N.A. to C. in C., S.A., 1730/2) My 1730. Escort situation necessitates further delay of 24 hours. Request you sail ship accordingly (F.O.C.N.A. 2314/2)

Enemy Aircraft Reconnaissance

Situation report. Usual Martin reconnaissance aircraft flew over rock between 1545 and 1549 hours today and was driven off to south east by A.A. fire. (Govr. Gib., 2145/2 to W.O.)

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Search For RIO GRANDE — My 0857/1. Sector 050° to 095° has been covered for 12 and 13 knots. ASTURIAS now (3 groups missing) 080° for 12 knots. Do your best for lower speeds South of 090° on passage to Buenos Aires. (R.A.S.A.D. 1034/2)

W.S. 3 A / W.S. 3 B — My 1639/31. Last sentence should be omitted. (SSTO Capetown, 0928/B/2)

ALMKERK — Reply to Admty. 1541/1. requesting route. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1021/2)

CAPETOWN CASTLE — Admty 1340/29. Asking if speed of CAPETOWN CASTLE should be adjusted to arrive Liverpool daylight. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1049B/2)

CARNARVON CASTLE — CARNARVON CASTLE's 1635/31 and your 1707/1 Ship is required to sail as soon as possible and repairs should not be taken in hand unless essential or can be completed while coaling. (C. in C., S.A.1153N/2, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

BULOLO — Proceed through I 34 B and I 35 A. Remain in I 35 until further orders. (C. in C., S.A. to BULOLO, 1919N/2)

Unknown Tanker — MOMBASA reports tanker nationality unknown passing 6 miles east of position 004° 38' N 010° 42' W., at 1600/1 course-degrees 120. This might be NARVINN going at much slower speed than expected. (C. in C., S.A. 2019/2 to C.S.I)

GUNNY — Overdue shipping. My 0945B/31. GUNNY arrived Capetown (S.O.I. Capetown 1015B/2)

A.M.C. Cargoes — Admty. 1226/19/10. Re arrangements with Elder Dempster Lines. To arrange and allow time for discharging and loading at both ends request date on which A.M.C. will be required back at Freetown may be communicated to me as early as possible with brief details of quantity and type of cargo being shipped to U.K. (V.A.N.P. 1024/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

NARVAL — French submarine, arriving off Grand Harbour about 0001/3. (V.A., Malta. to RORQUAL, 0911/2)

RORQUAL — Your 0142/2. Instructions for arrival. (V.A. Malta to RORQUAL, 0942/2)

MALAY retubing — Admty. 0047/1. Tubes already ordered to Port Said. Repair resources. Proposals. (C. in C., Med., 1041/2, to Admty.)

Convoy U.S. 5 A — With ULSTER PRINCE, arrived Suez a.m./2 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1144/2)

Reinforcements. Operation "Hurry" — Suggest BARHAM be put in charge, although BERWICK senior officer. (S.O. Force H. to C. in C., Med., 1240/2)
C. in C., Med., 1315/30. Propose leaving Gibraltar for Operation "Hurry" (date) To cover movements of ARGUS request her sailing may be adjusted (date) (S.O. Force H., to Admty., 1245/2)

BERWICK, PASTEUR } — Guns, equipment and military personnel embarked in (D.O.D. (F) 1302/2)

TRITON — Orders for patrol. (Capt. S.1. 1345/2)

Operations. Names — Propose following: (a) Forthcoming operations, "Coat" (b) Reinforcements, Force F. (c) Remainder, Force H.
As sinking of HOSTILE appears to be explained by Q.B.B. 86, do you consider passage south of Skerki Bank now acceptable? (S.O. Force H to C. in C., Med. 1526/2)
Cancel A.T. 2344/10/10. Impending operation given following names. Reinforcement with BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, 3 destroyers and transport of personnel to Malta, Operation "Coat" Air reinforcement of Malta by ARGUS, operation "White". Passage of 2 M.T. ships to Malta, Operation "Collar" (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 2126/2)

/Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Reconnaissance — Malta situation up to 1700/2. (H.C. Malta, 1730/2) Result of A/Recco. today. (V.A., Malta, 1845/2)

Operation — In view of C. in C., Med. 1821/1, add 24 hours to all times in my 1245/2. (S.O. Force H. 2147/2)

Alexandria — Own forces are now in vicinity and will probably be entering harbour from dawn to-morrow. (Capt. S. 1. to OSIRIS, 2303/2)

Enemy Intelligence — Prefer use of hospital ships TAIREA and (?FROUDPARA) unless pressed for extra accommodation. Hospital ships can be sailed to meet convoys at Imbros. (Movements, M.E. to Navy for A.C.N.B., 0949/2)

Italian Campaign Against Greece

Situation — My 0853/31. Troops and guns landed and net defence established Suda Bay. FAREHAM, WRYNECK and oiler OLNA left for Piraeus 0800/2. Remainder of force left for Alexandria via Kaso Straits at 0800/2. Suda and Canea raided by enemy aircraft yesterday only a few houses demolished and very few casualties. (C.O.I.C. Med., 0929/2 to Admty.)

Greek Submarines — Are operating south and east of line 200° from Cape Linguetta 40° 25'., 19° 18'. Keep north of latitude 40° 30'. (Capt. S. 1. to TRITON, 1031/2)

Enemy Air Attack — Re menace of Italian air bombing of civil population. Unless fighters sent, fear rapid collapse and we shall be utterly discredited. (Consul Gen., Salonika, telegrams 79 & 80 to F.O., 2245/2, 2250/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

DAHLIA
Ashore

British ship DAHLIA with military stores went ashore about 0300 G.M.T./31/10 about 7 miles north of Mombasa. Cargo being unloaded into lighter. Earliest possible date of refloating 15/11, unlikely to refloat before 30/11. (C. in C., E.I. 1202Z/2)

India, M/S
Construction

Your 0950/4/9. Admty. agree to Govt. of India proposals for building in India 2 "Banjoss" M/S and 10 "Bassetts" M/S. Details. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., E.I., 1727/2)

W.S. 3
C.M. 5

CARTHAGE to remain with W.S. 3 after junction of A and B groups and is to escort ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL to Mombasa. C.M.5. escorted by COLOMBO is to rendezvous with W.S. 3 C in position C.W. 027° 50' S. 036° 10' E., at 0600Z/5. Request convoy C.M. 5 be sailed accordingly. (C. in C., E.I., 0622Z/2, to S.N.O. Simonstown, etc.) Further instructions (C. in C., E.I. 1142/2 to DORSETSHIRE, etc., 1116/2 to Admty., 1122Z/2 to WOOLWICH, CARTHAGE, etc.)

KIMBERLEY
Bombed

KIMBERLEY bombed at 0715. Four bombs no hits. Position 014° 14' N., 042° 47' E. SHOREHAM reports six bombs dropped close to Perim at 0755. Five in sea and one on land believed no damage. Times G.M.T./2. (C. in C., E.I., 0824Z/2 to Admty.)
My 0824/2. Amend para 2 to read 13 bombs on or near Perim, confirmed no damage. (C. in C., E.I., 1214Z/2)

Suspicious
Ship

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG made a report of a suspicious vessel in position 005° 37' N., 084° 04' E., at 1315Z/2. It is assumed this is DANAE. (C. in C., E.I. 1340Z/2)

Ship has now cancelled distress message. (C. in C., E.I., 1414Z/2, 0514/3)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Singapore Conference	My 0313/30 and 0453/30. Comdr. Thomas U.S.N. leaves Singapore a.m./4. Documents to take with him. (C. in C., China, 0203Z/2) Your 0203Z/2. For security reasons, undesirable that Comdr. Thomas should take with him documents mentioned. (1st S.L. to C. in C., China, 0609Z/2)
Indo-China	Situation deteriorating re British interests. Suggest time has come to retaliate and stop supply of gunny bags. (C. in C., China, 0609Z/2)
C. in C., Far East	Addition to duties of new C. in C., Far East, re Ceylon air forces and G.R. Sqdns. R.A.F. in Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. (W.O. to G.O.C's Malaya and Hong Kong, 2350/2)

America & West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN	My 1001/29. To leave patrol a fter sunset 2/11 for Kingston, Jamaica, await orders (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/2)
DIOMEDE	My 1001/29. Leave patrol as necessary to fuel at Tortola a.m./4. On completion establish patrol 20 miles north westward of Sombrero Light to intercept PORT RICHEPANSE due Guadeloupe from New York about 5/11. French sloop VILLE D'YS may be met proceeding to Martinique and is not to be interfered with. SAN ADOLFO is to proceed to Bermuda on completion of fuelling. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1052/2)
Greek Shipping	Your 2005/28, Greek eastbound vessels to proceed to British port. Greek ELISAVET sailed Comox British Columbia 26/10 for Yokohama returned Esquimalt British Columbia 1/11. Request instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1154/2)

/BRAS-D'OR.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

BRAS-D'OR Lost — H.M.C.S. BRAS-D'OR not reported since 19/10 and now presumed lost in recent gales (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1221/2)

QUEEN ELIZABETH — Date of leaving New York. (d. of S.T., 1311/2)

Shipping Route — Your 1902/31. Cancel my 1508/14/9. to N.C.S.O. Trinidad. Shipping from Caribbean Sea to Gibraltar should be routed so as to pass within 100 miles N. of Madeira and thence direct to Gibraltar. (D.T.D. to C. in C., A.W.I., 1225/2)

Australia

ULYSSES — Re India's 1115/31 respecting Fremantle bunkering earliest available tanker ULYSSES due 19/11. Can programme be adjusted to this position or alternatively R.F.A. KURUMBA be made available.
(D. of S.T., 1625/2 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HELGOLAND

My 2345/28 Barranquilla passes local press report that pilot of Colombian military plane believed identified HELGOLAND near Boca Chica Cartagena 31/10 but Colombian destroyer CALDAS sent to investigate found no trace. (ends) Cartegena instructed to investigate.
Investigator employed by R.O. Barranquilla believes ship will hide some distance off Goajira being joined by Germans collected at Valledupar including aviators. Comment. Earlier rumours that Scadta employees sailed in the ship were denied by Colombian Authorities Barranquilla. (S.O.I., Kingston 0058/2)
My 0058/2. Cartagena states no truth in local press report re HELGOLAND. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1515/2)

SCHARNHORST

At Kobe. Broadcasts from Japan and Manila on 30/10 included a report that ship was armed and ready for sea. Singapore reports no previous information that ship was armed. (D.S. 425)

BESOSTRIS

My 2301/31. R.O. Puerto Cabello reports no sign of any activities. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0912/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SOULIOTIS (stopped 22/10)

Greek, SOULIOTIS reports stopping by Italian U-Boat at noon on 22/10 in approx. position 034° 00' N., 030° 30' W. Mate who boarded submarine saw no name or number but believes 2 officers German. Description. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0923/2 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported

1133 — 56.12 N., 10.12 W., (C. in C., W.A. 1343/2)

1524 — 58° to 60° N., 18° to 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 425)

1109 — 59° to 60° N., 18° to 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 424)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: No news.

German: 1 probably proceeding northwards may now be W. of Valencia. Probably 4 in N.W. Approaches and farther W., of which 1 was in area 58° to 60° N., 18° to 20° at 1109/2. No recent news of others.
1 more may possibly be S. of Iceland between 60° and 62° N.
Possibly 1 in northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1234/2)

Submarines Attacked

U-Boat Sunk by ANTELOPE

Am attacking firm contact. ACHATES assisting. My position 056° 12' N., 010° 12' W. ANTELOPE, 1133/2)

My 1133. Contact certain U-Boat. After second attack regained contact U-Boat used high speed and passed under me. (corrupt group) effective, have lost contact, searching. ACHATES asdic set broken so have told her to rejoin convoy. Request air co-operation. (ANTELOPE, 1255/2)

ANTELOPE's 1255. Am proceeding to join hunt. Expect to arrive 2000. (WANDERER, 1420/2)

/U-Boat.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked.

U-Boat Sunk by ANTELOPE-Contd.

U-Boat Italian sunk, most of crew rescued. Forecast Boiler Room damaged, oil fuel tank flooded in trying to board U-Boat. Am returning to Clyde. (ANTELOPE, 1515/2)

U-Boat Sunk. (ANTELOPE, 1518/2 to WANDERER)

Your 1518 and my 1420. Can I be of assistance in taking survivors into Londonderry. My position course and speed. (WANDERER 1540/2, to ANTELOPE)

Your 1540. No. Must return owing to damage. (ANTELOPE, 1610/2)

Well done ANTELOPE. (C. in C., W.A., 1553/2)

Position was near track of H.X. 82 Convoy in which MANCHESTER EXPORTER and CITY OF BARCELONA have particularly important cargoes. (D.S. 425)

My 1343. This U-Boat has now been sunk by ANTELOPE. (C. in C., W.A., 1601/2 to W. App. Command)

My 1515 U-Boat was German probably U.31 operating from Lorient. (ANTELOPE, 1705/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Deluge. At 0200/3 (D.C.0207/3) At 1400/3 (D.C. 1418/3).

More. Ships not required for duty today revert to 4 hours' notice until 2000. There will be no destroyer patrol tonight. (C.in C. More 0939/3).

Rosyth Defence. The value of Rosyth as a Fleet Base is being much prejudiced by enemy mine-laying in the searched channel. The absence of any long range A.A. gun defences covering the area to the East-eard of Inchkeith enables the enemy to carry out this work with impunity in that most vital part of the channel close to Inchkeith. Four mines have been exploded within four miles of Inchkeith within the last three days, one of which damaged BLACK SWAN. Reques that the question of mounting long range A.A. guns to cover the searched channel to the Eastward of Inchkeith be taken up as a matter of urgency. (C.in C. H.F. 1027/3).

C.in C. Rosyth to make detailed recommendations in consultation with 3 A.A. Division, in case guns can be made available. (V.C.N.S. 1846/3).

Movements.

CANITO. Orders. (F.O.C. N.P 0940/3).

ARGUS. Left Glasgow for Tail of Bank. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1215/3).
Intend putting ARGUS at 8 hours' notice for three days to make good defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1802/3).

Dover. Patrols night 3/4 November. (V.A. Dover 1241/3).

BATH. Your 0941, BATH again delayed due to port being closed. (C.in C. W.A. 1243/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

CAIRO. — On parting company with W.S.4A cover PATROCLUS and LAURENTIC during your return to Clyde. Estimated positions. (C.in C. W.A. 1301/3 to CAIRO).

Orkneys. — Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S.1531/3).

Portsmouth. — Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1603/3).

FLEUR DE LYS. — Proceeding at maximum speed of 3 knots towards Campbeltown to execute repairs. I.P. Crank bearings wiped. Position. (FLEUR DE LYS 1632/3).

FORMIDABLE. — My 1258/3. Request you will arrange A/S escort, asking C.in C. H.F. for assistance if necessary. (D.O.D.(H) 1657/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines.

TITANIA. — To proceed to Holy Loch after transfer Submarines to 5th and 6th Flotillas in accordance with my 1829/1 has been affected. (V.A.S. 1012/3).

TRIDENT. — Movements. (Capt: (S) 2 1434/3 to Submarines on patrol in Area B, negative Portsmouth area).

Positions and Movements. — 0700/4 (V.A.(S) 1702/3, 1916/3).

My 1829/1. In view of the fact that Submarines of the 5th Flotilla will be operating, some in the Portsmouth command and some in the Western Approaches command, it is proposed in order to simplify operational control that this should be exercised by V.A.S. through Captain S.5 in a similar manner as is done by V.A.S. in the case of other submarine flotillas. (V.A.(S) 1013/3 to C.in C. Portsmouth, C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1013/3 concur. (C.in C.W.A.1321/3)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd).

Harwich Submarine Base.

Submarine Base at Harwich to be closed a.m./5. The submarine Base is being kept at one weeks notice in case of return of submarines.
(C.in C. Nore 1146/3).

Submarines to be informed when our own aircraft are going to bomb French or Dutch ports.

My 1126/10. In future this information will not normally be passed to submarines.
(V.A.(S) 1136/3).

British Air Activity.

Air Reconnaissance.

No air reconnaissance possible on night 2nd to 3rd November.
(C.in C. Nore 0551/3).

FORMIDABLE.

It is requested that Fighter protection may be given to FORMIDABLE whilst carrying out trials in the Northern half of the Irish Sea as far South as 53° 30'N. from approximately 21st. to 25th November.

C.in C. to arrange the necessary details when they are finally decided.
(D.O.D.(H) 1258/3 to Air Ministry).

Patrol.

A patrol to be known as A.N.S 1 will be flown a.m. daily by 3 Ansons from Thornaby within the limits 54Nand 56 N and as far east as 4° . Aircraft will fly at visibility distance on parallel tracks of 090 degrees, returning on reciprocal: object to give pilots navigational experience and to locate enemy shipping.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2032/3).

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. STARSTONE (bombed 31/10)

CAPE ARGONA arrive Belfast. STARSTONE not met. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0500/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

WINDSOR CASTLE.

AAAA 5412 N 1318 W. WINDSOR CASTLE again attacked.
Malin Head Radio 1102/3).

AAAA WINDSOR CASTLE still bombed and damaged aeroplane still attacking.
(Base Ship Scapa T.O.R. 1142/3).

312. Detach one destroyer to assist WINDSOR CASTLE reported damaged by bomb position 54° 12'N., 13° 18'W at 1140 course 070.
(C.in C. W.A. 1151/3 to CORNWALL).

Have sent two destroyers to WINDSOR CASTLE. (CORNWALL 1155/3).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of WINDSOR CASTLE in position 54° 12'N 13° 18'W at 1142 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1157/3 to MARAUDER).

My 1155A; destroyers GARLAND and BULLDOG.
(CORNWALL 1225A/3).

GARLAND is to comply with my 1253.
BULLDOG is to escort WINDSOR CASTLE to Cumbrae and then proceed to Liverpool.
(C.in C. W.A. 1753/3 to GARLAND, BULLDO

Position WINDSOR CASTLE at 1615 today 054° 48'N., 011° 57'W course 075° speed 15 knots. Make contact and stand by should further assistance be required.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1803/3 to DILIGENT, MARAUDER).

Report of N/502.
Close A/S patrol carried out from Pos. NLDE 1507 to NLDE 4435 no enemy forces sighted.
Sighted at 1510 hrs. MV - WINDSOR CASTLE pos. NLDE 1507 course 075 - 15 kts. - she was not badly damaged by bombing attack of CONDOR but was carryi five unexploded bombs and requested surface escort.
A/C received signal from base at 175 as follows:-

/Met

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

WINDSOR CASTLE. (Contd.)

Met NLSB 4803 075, 15 kts. unexploded bombs on board surface escort required little damage no killed T.O.O.1615. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1920).

My 1753 position of GFMS (WINDSOR CASTLE) at 1615 course 075° speed 15 knots. 54° 48'N., 11° 57'W. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/3 to BULLDOG).

Please repeat your 1255. My position 054° 35' N., 010° W. BULLDOG and GARLAND not met WINDSOR CASTLE. (GARLAND 2000/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Iceland.

Enemy air activity over Iceland has increased recently. Three aircraft visited East coast 28/10 and Heinkell III visited Reykjavik early this morning presumably photographic reconnaissance. This machine passed over Kaldadarnes aerodrome made one circuit at 6,000 feet and reasonable assume whereabouts of this aerodrome now known to enemy. Am also investigating presence of what appears to be German rubber dinghy from aircraft 30 miles East of Vik on South coast. If air activity continues increase hope some Fighter Gladiator or Gauntlet plus one could be made available at short notice. Provision of some Bofors anti-aircraft guns would greatly increase protection of aerodrome which is very weak at present. (Alabaster, Reykjavik 1212/3).

NORTHERN SPRAY.

Help Kinnaird Head. (NORTHERN SPRAY 1832/3).

S.O.S.

The following has been read. Help 045° Rattray 10 miles, my course 225° speed 6 knots. (Pentland Firth 1920/3).

EROS KILDALE.

Standing by S.S. EROS 057° 48'N., 001° 54'W recovering boat with survivors investigating condition of ship. (CHALLENGER 1955/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EROS.
KILDALE.

ϕ
My 1955/3. Survivors recovered. One wounded 2 believed missing. Am attempting to tow southwards request salvage tug(s) take over if available. (CHALLENGER 2044/3).

ϕ
Your 2350/3 (no trace) ABEILLE 4 at sea in your vicinity. SABINE (tug) en route Peterhead to Methil ordered to return. KILDALE has also been bombed and it is hoped to salvage both ships. (C.in C. Rosyth 0032/4 to CHALLENGER).

My 0032/4. Believed ABEILLE 4 is now with KILDALE but has been ordered to proceed to assist you if no chance of salvage. (C.in C. Rosyth 0054/4 to CHALLENGER).

*
My 2350 (no trace). My position, course and speed 057° 45'N., 001° 52' W., 140° - 4 knots. S.S. EROS in tow. Request air escort at dawn. (CHALLENGER 0055/4 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Arriving Aberdeen 0815 to deliver EROS local Tug for berthing. Intend continuing voyage to Methil on completion. (CHALLENGER 0742/4).

Convoy W.N.29 was attacked by A/C about 1930/11 in position 026° Rattray Head 7 miles. Steamers EROS and KILDALE both damaged and abandoned. EROS taken in tow by CHALLENGER for Aberdeen and Tug ABEILLE IV is searching for KILDALE whose survivors are on board PENTLAND FIRTH. Tug SABINE is also joining in search. Amplification follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 0753/4).

My 0753. EROS arrived Aberdeen in tow of CHALLENGER at 0815 and will proceed into harbour at 1500 today. 4 survivors of KILDALE including 1 dead landed at Peterhead by GREGORY:- (names). (C.in C. Rosyth 1015/4).

Following two survivors from S.S. KILDALE bombed and believed sunk at 1920/3 off Rattray Head have been landed at Methil. One each from S.S. MURRAYFIELD and S.S. FLUOR. 3 more survivors are believed to be in S.S. GLEN MAROON due Methil shortly. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1524/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EROS. KILDALE.

S.S. KILDALE has apparently sunk in approx. position Rattray Head 025° 7 miles R.A.F. machines have searched the vicinity.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1725/4).

My 1015/4. 27 survivors of S.S. KILDALE brought to Granton by S.S. PENTLAND FIRTH at 1400/4. 10 men missing including one naval gunner; 2 military gunners are safe. KILDALE hit by one - probably two - bombs. Engine room filling rapidly when ship abandoned.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2205/4).

Mining.

Bristol Channel.

Ports will be open at the following times:

Avonmouth 0900.
Newport 0900.
Cardiff 0900.
Barry 1000.
Swansea 0730.
Port Talbot, remains closed.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0703/3).

BATH.

R.V. with R.A.M.L. as early as possible after daylight. My position, course, speed 0800/4 (R.A.M.L.0941/3 to BATH) BATH again delayed due to port being closed (C.in C. W.A. 1243/3).

Firth of Forth.

One blue mine. (C.in C. Rosyth 1125/3).

Tyne.

2 ground magnetic mines detonated.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1205/3).

Harwich.

Asking for fighter protection for 6 fleet minesweepers 4/11. 51° 58'N to 52° 10.5'N., 0830 to 1730.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1618/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Belgian Trawler 293. — Mined 262° 4½ cables from No.4 Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1214/3).

LADY DRUSIE. — Motor Boat mined in Milford Haven Approach Channel this morning. (D.S.426).

P. M/S LORNA DOONE reports having swept up and sunk a black object approximately 5 feet long 2 feet in diameter. One end pointed the other rounded, this object floated high in the water and sank end first. Position 52° 01'N., 01° 47'E on 2. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1657/3).

Invergordon. — One red magnetic mine detonated by L.L. sweepers Inverness Firth Approaches. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1735/3).

VIMIERA. — Mine exploded 20 yards astern of me in position 150° North East SWIN 100 yards. No damage. Speed was 12 knots. (VIMIERA 1014/3).

GEORGE and ANNIE. — M/V GEORGE and ANNIE while carrying out Spar Sweep was blown up at 1123/3 in position 150° ½ mile Heugh P.W.S.S. Regret no survivors. Lt.Cdr. Houghton R.N.V.R. in charge. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1206/3).

Hartlepool. — Mine exploded spontaneously at 1143/3 in approx. 54° 40' 09'' N., 01° 07' 24''W. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1225/3).

Milford Haven. — Three ground mines self-detonated. Positions. Mines detonated between 2140 and 2240 2/11. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/3).

Belfast. — Port of Belfast is closed due to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1845/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Yarmouth.

Ref. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 1550/27 and 1715/27. Description of mine. Great reliability cannot be placed on Cobbers report of positions. Ends. (C.in C. Nore 1919/3).

Operation B.S.45.

ICARUS and IMPULSIVE are to act as escort. (C.in C. Nore 2306/3).

Enemy Intelligence.

Report received graded B.3. that 5 modern German destroyers arrived Oslo on 2/11 and berthed at Piperviken. (D.D.I.C. 0003/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ROSEMONDE.

L.L. Trawler ROSEMONDE sustained damage in collision with trawler SORANUS and will be delayed five days.
(F.O. Humber 1237/3).

LORD COLLINGWOOD.

Enquiries have been made of all the naval ports between The Nore and Invergordon for drifter LORD COLLINGWOOD and no trace found. She is reported to have sailed from Thames in F N 16 for Methil for onward routeing to Greenock on 23/10.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1303/3).

46. Request report if anything has been seen of Drifter LORD COLLINGWOOD which sailed with F.N.16 on October 23rd.
(C.in C. Nore 2035/3 to F.O's i/c Humber, Harwich, Yarmouth. N.O's i/c Brightlingsea, Lowestoft, Grimsby.

OLYMPIA.

H.M.T. OLYMPIA and Norwegian destroyers SLEIPNER in collision Leiths Roads 1930/2. No serious damage to OLYMPIA.
(N.O.i/c Leith 1307/3).

MARIA STELLA.

Begins: Belgian Trawler MARIA STELLA broke adrift while in tow of LORD STANHOPE at 1600/2 and grounded at Robin Hood Cove. Total loss. Board of enquiry is being held at 1 00 tomorrow Monday. 0940/3. Ends.
(C.in C. W.A. 1444/3, 1832/3).

FLEUR DE LYS.

I.P. Crank Bearings wiped. Proceeding at maximum speed of 3 knots towards Campbeltown to execute repairs. Position. (FLEUR DE LYS 1632/3).

My 2349/3. Position now given by master is 35 miles N.N.W. of Kinnaird Head altered on fix at 2100/30. Cause of explosion unascertained but torpedo or bombing improbable. Degaussing had failed the night before. Weather heavy S.E. Gale. Survivors boat was picked up close to mine barrier.
(A.C.O.S. 1947/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

CONVOYS.

S.C.9. CENTAIN to join. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 0907/3). OTTAWA, HURRICANE HARVESTER, HESPERUS, GARLAND, to meet (C.in C. W.A. 1253/3). 1439/3.

H.G.46. CAMITO to R.V. with (date) (F.O.C.N.P. 0940/3).

S.L.54. ESPERANCE BAY to act as ocean escort. (C.in C. S.A. 1159N/3).

H.X.83. BEAGLE, BULLDOG, SAGUENAY and SKEENA to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1253/3). meet. Details. (C.in C. W.A. 1355/3).

O.B.238. Cancel my 1651/2. GIMBRA and FLORIAN did not sail (N.C.S.O. Oban 1305/3).

H.X.82B. DERBY COUNTY to R.V. (C.in C. W.A. 1307 /3).

B.H.X.86. Left, ocean escort MONTCLARE, returning to Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1243/3).

Troop Convoys. W.S.4A. To keep clear of H.X.83, to alter course at 1600/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1033/3).

" DELIUS. Speed of advance 11 knots. Lame duck DELIUS. (CORNWALL, 1230A/3). Propose DELIUS proceed unescorted from dark tomorrow if risk to personnel and stores can be accepted. (C.in C. W.A. 1803/3). Destroyers detailed to assist CASANARE and LAURENTIC. (see U/Boat Campaign).

W.S.4B. Dates and details of stores. (D.S.T. 2335/3).

Barry Roads. Your 1909/2, use of Barry Roads for convoy assembly. This could be accepted as temporary measure but is not considered advisable. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1226/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Arrivals in Dark Hours.

My 1340/29. By crossing meridian of 10° West at 0600 vessels will frequently arrive at destinations in dark hours unless speed is reduced. To avoid such reduction of speed it is proposed to allow vessels concerned to enter Clyde, Belfast and Liverpool during dark hours, F.O.s. I.C. concerned being notified of times of arrival in sufficient time to warn local patrols and Examination Service. Request your concurrence. (D.T.D. 1904/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

JEAN BART
RICHELIEU

Instructions if they attempt to proceed into Mediterranean or German occupied ports. (A.C.N.S.(F) to F.O.C. N.A., 0404/3, and reply of F.O.C. N.A. 1210/3) See Operations Vol.

MILAN

Gibraltar 0830/3. French light cruiser MILAN returned westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1253/3).

CUBA Interception

Your 1315/2. ROYAL SOVEREIGN may be used to provide support if considered necessary, there being no immediate urgency for her arrival at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 1346/3 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUBA
Interception

Admty. 1346/3. MORETON BAY escorting French ship CUBA with 1216 sailors from Martinique on board passes through (positions) about 0600/5. Ship may run out of fuel and have to be towed. Possible French forces from Dakar may attempt to interfere. DRAGON will join MORETON BAY before darkness 4/11 or at daylight 5/11. Oiler OLWEN from Freetown should pass through (position) at 0600/4 to meet MORETON BAY. Proceed Freetown at best speed, fuel and proceed to support. Possibility of submarines has to be considered. (C.in C. S.A., 1831/3, to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Libreville.

Report of interview with Leclerc. De Gaulle's decision re attack. (C.S.1 2017 A/3) See Operations Vol.

Food Supplies.

Your tel. 26/10 to C.in C. S.A. Decision has been given that all food supplies now in BELGRAVIA are to be delivered free of all charges to Free French Cameroons at Manoka Anchorage. BELGRAVIA will arrive Manoka Anchorage about (date). She cannot reach Duala. Request Leclerc may be asked to arrange for ship to be unloaded as rapidly as possible. (C.in C. S.A., 2023/3 to Govr., Nigeria).

MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Italian S/M at Tangier. — See U/Boat Campaign, S/M's Reported.

URSULA — Not to be sailed until further notice. (D.O.D. (P) to F.O.C. N.A. 0345/3).

SHEFFIELD. — Fuel permits further 24 hours patrol arriving Gib. with 18% a.m. 7/11. Intend to leave at 0001/4 unless further orders. (SHEFFIELD, 1244/3).

Explosive Machine. — My 1020/1. Divers continue to recover portions of a machine from northern entrance. Description. (F.O.C.N.A. 1942/3).

South Atlantic.

DRAGON — Sailed 1200/3 from Freetown, to R.V. with MORETON BAY. (C.in C. S.A., 1037/3, S.O.I., Freetown, 1445 M/3).

HOUDUCE — To return to Duala forthwith, ascertaining on passage if Corsico Island buoy is still burning. (F.O.I.C.S. to DEVONSHIRE, 1617/3)

TURCOMAN — Left base buoy for position B at 1000/3 with instructions to close position B at every even hour until contact is made with DELHI. (C.S.1, 2227 A/3, to DELHI).

Mediterranean.

Alexandria. — Important units arrive 0715 and 0745/3. (R.A. Alexandria, 0050/3, to OSIRIS).

ILLUSTRIOUS — C.in C. H.F.'s No. 1429 H.F. of 1526/29/10. Brief report on fighter communication during 2 months' operating in Mediterranean, in which 13 enemy a/c (certain), either shadowing or attacking Fleet, have been shot down by Pulmars, 10 of which were destroyed as a result of directions by ships. (ILLUSTRIOUS, 1145/3, to Admty.)

Enemy Morale. — Following from N.A. Stockholm: Italian just returned from Naval circles Rome has confided to Swedish Officer depressing effect on morale of Italian Navy due to
(a) Their inability to prevent British convoys traversing Mediterranean and still more
(b) Innumerable British fleets said to have entered Malta with bands playing and then refuelled without Italian hindrance. (B.3)
(D.N.I., 1257/3 to C. in C. Med.).

/ Taranto .....

MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Taranto. — Reconnaissance not carried out today. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1359/3).

Malta, A/C. — Situation Report to 1700/3 G.M.T. No military or naval items. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/3).

Operations. Names. — Your 1526/2. Para. 1 and 2, Concur. Para. 3, consider risk of using Skerki Channel is not justifiable. (C.in C. Med., 1753/3 to Force H).

Reinforcements. — Your 1240/2, suggesting BARHAM vice BERWICK in charge. Do not think the question of seniority can be waived. (C.in C. Med., 1807/3, to S.O. Force H.)

Operation B.S. — Bring into force condition B. (Capt. S.1 to S/M's on Patrol, 1936/3).

Convoys. — Re publicity. (C.in C. M.E., to W.O., 1950/3).

NAVAL. — French s/m, returned 3/11, sea water in one battery. It appears probable that slow convoys from Tripoli (Africa) to West Sicily keep close to shoal eastward of Kerkenah Island. (V.A. Malta, 2005/3).

Assistance to Greece.

Suda Bay, Landing, Air Raids. — My 2201/1. Initial action at Suda Bay completed. Details of guns landed, nets laid by PROTECTOR, etc. One battalion disembarked from AJAX on 1/11. Heavy air raid by 25 aircraft on Suda Bay and Canea during disembarkation, little damage and few casualties. Further raids by 5 aircraft, a.m./2, diverted by gunfire of AJAX and bombed Canea. WRYNECK, FAREHAM and oiler OLNA sailed for Piraeus, remainder for Alexandria. Plans for aerodrome, A/A guns. (C.in C. Med., 0215/3).

Cable. — Eastern Tel. Co. now report cable between Alexandria and Salonika O.K. (C.O.I.S., Alexandria, 1825/3).

Small Craft. — Ref. Admty. 727 to C.in C. Request D.S.T.O. send information concerning rates and terms. As Col. Johnson and Lieut. Cdr. Ryder are coming, no officer from Admiralty will be necessary, especially as little material can be sent from Alexandria. With minimum speed seven knots doubtful if can obtain more than 20 of which many will be yachts. (N.A. Athens, 2063/3, to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Aden Defences. Urging reinforcement of Air and A/A defences at earliest possible date. Proposals. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1712/30/10, received 0145/4/11) Fully endorse S.N.O. Red Sea appreciation in his 1712/30. (C.in C. E.I., 1950 Z/3).

MAURETANIA. Your 0702/1. No objection to use of accommodation for private passengers at usual rates. (D.S.T. 2013/3, to S.T.O. Colombo).

China.

Singapore Conference. My 0203/2 and your 1940/2. N.A. Washington informs me that Admiral Stark anticipates Admiral Hart will wish to send his Chief of Staff back to Singapore with Thomas. Have been asked to arrange transport and have done so. (C.in C. China, 0403Z/3 to Admty.)

My 1427Z/3rd. Commander Misden left for Manila 0235 G M/4 with Commander Thomas. He has taken with him documents referred to in my 0203Z/2 and S.P's referred to in your 1540/1. He has been authorised to supply any information desired but not to commit H.M.G. in any way.
(C.in C. China, 1941Z/3 to Admty.)

C.in C. Far East. Admty. 2329/19. Amendment to directive to C.in C. Far East, re operational control and general direction of training of British Air forces in Ceylon, etc.
(1 S.L., to C.in C. China, 1957/3).

Australia.

MAURETANIA Your 0702 Z/1. Ports of call Fremantle and Melbourne where fitting out will take place. (A.C.N.B., to P.S.T.O. Colombo, 0231 Z/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

EISENACH — Panama reports NOSADY MARU took orders to German ship EISENACH and Italian ship FELIA to proceed to sea. Both ships reported ready to sail (B.2) Former reported now has 10 days coal. Reporting Officer Port Limon investigating. Callao pass to PRINCE ROBERT.
(S.O.I., Jamaica, 1123/3).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FELIA — (see EISENACH, German).

MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CASANARE. British, 5376 tons. Following read: SSSS 53.58 N., 14.13 W., CASANARE torpedoed. (Scapa W/T. 2065/3). Informing LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS and CAIRO (C.in C. W.A. 2105/3): Detach one destroyer to assistance of CASANARE torpedoed in (position) at 2055. (C.in C. W.A. to CORNWALL, (W.S.4A) 2117/3). Your 2117. HURRICANE sent, left 2220. (CORNWALL, 2230/3). MARAUDER and DILIGENT to proceed to assist (P.O.I.C. Greenock, 2250/3 amended 0032/4) Detached W.S.4A, proceeding assistance of CASANARE and LAURENTIC. (HURRICANE, 2310/3).

H.M.S. LAURENTIC. SSSS, torpedoed, 54.09 N., 13.44 W., 2051. (LAURENTIC via Valentia Radio, 2107/3). Following read: S/M distress, 53.55 N., 14.30 W. Torpedoed engine room, all fires out. (LAURENTIC, 2225/3) Detach another destroyer to assistance of LAURENTIC torpedoed in 53.55 N., 14.30 W. at 2224. (C.in C. W.A. to CORNWALL, 2237/3). Your 2237, HESPERUS sent LAURENTIC left 2325. (CORNWALL, 2326/3).

H.M.S. PATROCLUS. Torpedoed 53.43 N., 14.41 W. (PATROCLUS, 2222/3) keep clear of 53.55 N., 14.30 W., where LAURENTIC torpedoed at 2224. (C.in C. W.A., 2245/3, to PATROCLUS, CAIRO). If not in contact proceed to assist PATROCLUS and LAURENTIC, torpedoed (position). Sunderland flying boat will be co-operating. (C.in C. W.A. 2353/3, to ACTIVE and ACHATES).

HILLFERN (torpedoed 31/10). 12 Survivors including Master and Chief Officer of HILLFERN have today been rescued from ships boat by DOUGLAS and brought to Lyness. Ship was lost in position 57° 57' N., 02° 25½' W. at 0650/31 while in Convoy. Master considers ship was torpedoed. (A.C.O.S. 2349/3).

Submarines Reported.

Tangier. Italian a/m entered Tangier Harbour 1750 today. (Cascoigne, Tangier, no T.O.O. received 2002/3).
Italian U/B seen by (?) GREYHOUND at 1750 to enter Tangier. Was previously reported by a/c in 80° Spartel steering E. Patrol being established accordingly. (P.O.C. N.A. 1836/3).
My tel. and your 1836/3. S/M apparently chased into harbour by 3 British destroyer Reported not damaged, but batteries run down and now being charged.

/ Duration ....

MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Tangier. (contd.) — Duration of stay unknown. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2345/3).

2065. — 53.58 N., 14.13 W. (D.D.I.C. 2200/3) (CASAMARE torpedoed).

American and West Indies.

17/10. — Master ATHEL VIKING reports 17/10 in position 42.56 N., 40.18 W., sighted vessel speed 9 knots believed to be submarine. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1551/3).

Estimated U/B dispositions. — Italian — 1 was in 34° N. 30 degs. 31' W. 1200 on 22nd October. No subsequent news.

German — 1 probably reaching N.W. Approaches from the Southward. Probably 3 in N.W. Approaches and farther west of which 1 was in area 58° to 60° N; 18° to 20° W. at 1324/2; no news of the others. 1 more may possibly be S. of Iceland between 60° and 62° N. (D.D.I.C. 1235/3).

Submarines Attacked.

By ANTELOPE. 8/10. — ANTELOPE arrived with 5 officers and 36 ratings from sunk U/B. (P.O.I.C. Greenock, 0827/3).

By ACHATES 1623/3 — Your 0537 (no trace in W.R.) Two attacks in firm S/M contacts. Position 55.07 N., 14.45 W. (ACHATES, 1623/3, to C.in C.W.A.)
1 Sunderland to maintain A/S search in co-operation with ACHATES throughout night of 3-4/11. Enemy may attempt to escape on the surface during the night. A.S.V. to be used and flares used to identify any suspicious vessel or contact. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1655/3). Sunderland a/c will be co-operating with you. Parachute flares will be used. Report latest position of contact and if in touch. (C.in C. W.A., to ACHATES, 1917/3) ACHATES 1823.
Unable to confirm contact, intend carrying on search until 1000/4 and then both ships to join H.X. 83. (ACTIVE, 1925/3)
Your 1917. Lost contact in 55° 08' 30" N., 15° 05' W. Sunderland a/c is already in company. (ACTIVE, 2042/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Patrol — VANOC and VOLUNTEER last night patrolled to the east of Portsmouth as cover for Convoy C.E. 15.

ATTENDANT — (Tug) is reported aground and a total loss on Canna Island, Hebrides.

Convoy C.E.15 shelled — Convoy C.E. 15 was shelled off Dover this morning but no damage resulted.

U-Boat sunk — ANTELOPE sank a U-Boat this afternoon off the north west of Ireland.

German Tanker torpedoed — TAKU at 0230 today attacked a large homeward bound tanker in the Bay of Biscay and estimates 3 hits for certain. The ship may possibly be the German CEDANIA.

British Air Activity

11 Blenheims of Coastal Command last night attacked gun positions between Calais and Ambleteuse. Results were not observed. One aircraft was lost.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Use of A.M.C's

Unless we can provide proper A/S escort for them in U-Boat Waters which appears improbable, I am of opinion that A.M.C's should be withdrawn from Western Patrol and NorthernPatrol being replaced if required by pairs of A/S Trawlers using some of those A/S Trawlers now used for anti-invasion duty to make up numbers. The A.M.C's either to be used for hunting down surface raiders or as Convoy escorts in non U-Boat Waters or as troop transports. (C. in C., H.F. 1047/4 to Adty.)

Free French Warships and S/M's

W.A.Message 0824/6/9. and C. in C., Portsmouth 1617/26/10. Request confirmation of following action taken in bringing forward LE TRIOMPHANT, LA MOQUEUSE, LA CAPRICIEUSE and CHEVREUIL; and request directions for S/M's MIMERVE, JUNON, SURCOUF. All manned by Free French except CHEVREUIL (C. in C., W.A. 2314/4 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE

At 0200/4. (D.C. 0210/4) At 1400/4 (D.C. 1417/4)

Burning Oil as Invasion Defence

Your 1625/23. Admiralty policy is to instal this defence only in places where it is known that it can be efficient with present technique, and to press on with investigations to overcome certain difficulties such as deep water ignition and behavior in tideways and improve the weapon. For the present, intention is for this policy to be continued. (V.C.N.S. 1641/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Nore Command

My 1048/9/10. Ships which give Night Leave are to be at 4 hours notice for steam at 0830 (C. in C., Nore, 1907/40)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

A.M.C's on Western and Northern Patrol. Withdrawal suggested.

C. in C., Home Fleet recommends that, unless proper A/S escorts can be provided for A.M.C's in U-Boat waters, these vessels should be withdrawn from Western Patrol and Norther Patrol and replaced by pairs of A/S trawlers.

Enemy Heavy Ship off May Island.

A heavy ship with screen passed the latitude of May Island at 1845 today, course 025°.

SLEIPNER

Norwegian destroyer SLEIPNER was damaged in collision with H.M.T. OLYMPIA at Rosyth today.

S/M L. 27.

was severely damaged by an underwater collision p.m. today, while on patrol off Cherbourg. She left patrol at midnight 4/5.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked shipyards at Kiel and targets at Naples. Channel ports were also attacked.

Certain patrols, designated S.E.C. 1 and S.E.C. 2. have been designed for the protection of convoys by aircraft fitted with special equipment.

Mining

M. A/S [illegible] 4 struck a mine this afternoon off Tobruun and sank.

Rosyth, Port Talbot and Falmouth were opened this morning and Belfast early this afternoon.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

A second Italian submarine entered Tangier harbour at 1830 today and tied up alongside the submarine which entered yesterday. She was followed by two British destroyers as far as territorial waters.

Tangier

The Officer Commanding the Spanish Troops in Tangier today proclaimed himself Governor and Delegate of the High Commissioner of Spanish Morocco. He announced that the Committee of Central, the Assembly and the Mixed Bureau of Information will cease to function.

South Atlantic

N.C.S.O. Duala reports that French submarine PONCELET was bombed but not hit today.

Mediterranean

An Italian P.L. broadcast announces that waters surrounding Greek territory must be considered dangerous.

C. in C., Med. reports that two more Italian U-Boats have been destroyed. The hunt in one case was carried out in co-operation with the R.A.F.

R.A.F. bombed Naples last night.

It has been decided to give Greece the greatest possible material and moral support at the earliest possible moment. The Services Attaches at Athens report that the situation in Greece is extremely favourable for rapid action against Italy.

East Indies

LEANDER and Convoy B.N. 8 were bombed at 0640Z today in the Southern part of the Red Sea. No damage is reported. R.A.F. fighter drove off the enemy.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

CAIRO	Return to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 0003/4 to CAIRO) Propose anchor at Lanlash about midnight, returning Clyde after A/A Firing arranged for a.m./5. (CAIRO 1600/4 to A.C.W.A)
Dartmouth	Movements to Milford Haven and Bristol Channel Ports. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1101/4)
BULLDOG	Sailed as in C. in C. W.A's 1753/3. E.T.A. Liverpool 2100/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1201/4 to C. in C., W.A.)
Dover	Patrols for night 4/5. (V.A.Dover 1421/4)
Orkneys	Movements for night 4/5. (A.C.O.S. 1529/4)
M.L. 135	a.m. 1121/3. Should be ready for sea on 7/11. Request information as to West Coast port to which she should be sailed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1356/4 to C. in C., W.A.)
Portsmouth	Night Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1613/4)
Rosyth	Movements for night 4/5. (C. in C., Rosyth 1626/4 and 1736/4)
EREBUS	My 1715/2. W. entrance to Tilbury Docks is now available for EREBUS when required. (F.O.I.C. London, 1737/4 to C. in C., Nore)
KENYA	Proceed independently at best speed to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 1757/4 to KENYA) E.T.A. Clyde 1000/5 (KENYA 2100/4 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Yarmouth Area A/S Patrols — Following alterations for winter months will operate from 7/11. (F.O.I.C. 1320/4 to Admty)

SALVIA, PEONY, GLOXINIA, HYACINTH — A.M. 1217/17. To proceed to Eastern Mediterranean and come under orders of C. in C., Mediterranean. When ready for sea, and complete with LLGear, C. in C., W.A. to sail them to arrive Gibraltar not later than 20/11. No escort likely to be available, and a close watch will therefore be necessary on Brest. (A.C.N.S.F. 1334/4

O.Patrol — Cancelled tonight owing to weather. (C. in C., Nore, 1353/4 to Adty)

Forces — Adty. 1203/1. Vessels available for transfer of troops are 3 A/S trawlers. Request one vessel of outward escort may remain to cover disembarkation and embarkation. (H.O.I.C. Forces 1614/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

FURIOUS — Required to take Hurricanes to Takoradi, retaining 6 of 801 Squadron on board and disembarking rest of this Squadron at Hatston. Request you sail her to arrive Clyde not later than 10/11. Should be ready to sail by a.m./14. (A.C.N.S. H. 2113/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

5th S/M Flotilla Operational control, assumed by V.A.S. — Your 1013/3. Concur. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0100/4 to V.A.S.)
My 1013/3. Intend to assume operational control of submarines of 5th Flotilla employed on patrol duties as from 0001/10. Intend that S.5 should keep submarines operating or on passage in C. in C., Portsmouth Command informed of movements of own and enemy forces that may effect them. Submarines operating or on passage in C. in C., Western Approaches Command to carry out their patrols in accordance with F.S.C. 2. (V.A.S. 1202/4)

/Brittany Coast.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Brittany Coast	Area between coast and following position is known to have been mined by the French over a year ago. Submarines are to patrol to seaward of line joining these points and are only to proceed inshore if ordered or when in contact with enemy:- 048° North 005° West, 047° 56' North, 004° 58' West, 047° 29' North, 004° 55' West, 047° 19' North, 004° 20' West 047° 20' North 003° 27' West 047° 37' North 003° 25' West. (Capt. S. 2. 1546/4 to TRIDENT)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0700/5 (V.A.S. 1656/4)
STURGEON	Leave Patrol p.m./6 and return to Base by Route in P.O. 57 (Capt. S. 6. 1817/4 to STURGEON)
TAKU	At 0230/2 attacked large homeward bound tanker in 46° 54' N., 3° 50' W., Estimate 3 hits certain. (TAKU 1945/4 to V.A.S.)
Distribution of Submarines for A/S Training	Request that distribution of the 3 S/M's available for A/S Training, as result of a.m. 1143/2, may be reconsidered. Reasons. (C. in C., W.A. 1933/4 to Adty.)

British Air Activity

Air Reconnaissance	No air R/C has been made. (C. in C., Nore 0701/4 to Adty.)
Rosyth	C. in C. Rosyth's 1735/1 states that Night Artillery Zone has been temporarily re-introduced at Rosyth and lays down boundaries This is not correct. Request that terms of S.D. 158 as amended be applied. (H.Q.F.C 1130/4 to Air Ministry)
S.A. 2 and S.A. 3	S.A. 3. and two Southern tracks of S.A. 2 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1224/4 to Adty.)

/Bombing of.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Bombing of Coastal Batteries

Request bombing of batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 1930 to 2100/6 during passage of Convoy C.W. 16 through Straits of Dover. (C. in C., Nore, 1554/4 to Adty.)

Belfast. Proposed Restrictions on Aircraft

Following temporary additional restrictions proposed for Belfast Lough and Port Area
(a) No aircraft except fighters in pursuit of the enemy to fly over the specified zone at any time by night. (i.e. 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
(b) Any aircraft which inadvertently enters this zone will be entirely responsible for establishing its friendly character to the ground defences. It will be engaged as hostile unless definitely recognised as friendly.
(c) The limits of the zone are from ground level upwards within the area mentioned above.
Request R.A.F.N.I. will provide A.M. with detailed description of area to which above restrictions should apply. Request addressees will signal concurrence or comments immediately.
S. 4496 refers.
(Air Ministry 1603/4 to Air Commands etc.,)

Kites

Air Ministry agree that Kites may be flown up to 1500 feet by ships in Convoy on passage between Pentland Firth and Rattray Head, from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. (A.C.N.S. T. 2127/4 to C. in C., Rosyth) .

Enemy Air Activity

R.A.F. Station Ford

Attacked by aircraft at 1515. 4 Civilians employed in F.A.A. Workshops killed.
M.O.I.C. Ford, 1900/4 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Sheerness	Red mine detonated 230° Knob 1 (? cable) at 0300 by HERO. (Capt M/S Sheerness 0332/4 to C. in C., Nore)
B.S. 45	Intend sail from Spurn Point at 1500/5, arriving 21 Buoy at 0815/6, thence to initial position, and return to 21 D Buoy. Laying will begin at 1015/6. (S.O.Minelayers Immingham, 0939/4 to Adty.)
Rosyth	My 1743. Both sides of Channel between 2° 52' E and West Gate Inchkeith are open at 1859/2.11. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0939/4 to Admty.)
Port Talbot	Now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1132/4)
Falmouth	Now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1152/4) Explosion occurred in 247° St. Anthony 2 cables, probably Magnetic or Acoustic Mine. Red Mine exploded 270° St. Anthony 1½ cables. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1805/4 to Admty.)
Belfast	Port Open. No traffic to move North of Swept Channel. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1220/4)
BATH	Intend sail BATH at 1700/4 (C. in C., W.A. 1437/4 to R.A.M.L.) R.A.M.L. is anxious you arrive as quickly as possible. Act accordingly. (C. in C., W.A. 1937/4 to BATH)
Dover	No routine sweeps today owing to weather. QZS 105 swept between 1 and 4 Buoys by 3 Oropesa Trawlers. One Mine detonated 8 cables 306° from No 4 Buoy. (V.A.Dover, 1502/4 to Adty.)
ATREUS	Required for service abroad. So Clyde controlled Minefields will not be laid in immediate future. (D.T.M. 1814/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
M.A/S.B.4	Mined and sunk at 1615 in 165° ¼ mile from Tobruan Signal Station. Crew rescued, one slightly injured. (R.N.O. Fowey 1820/4 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Brest	7 Destroyers and 3 large vessels at 0915 (H.Q.C.C. 1050/4 to Adty.)
Fair Isle	1 medium slow vessel in 178° 9 miles from Fair Isle, course 100°, speed 10 knots, at 2355/3. (A.C.O.S. 1121/4 to Adty.)
Sumburgh	1 small slow vessel in 202° 7½ miles from Sumburgh, course 204°, speed 7 knots, at 0607/4 (A.C.O.S. 1121/4 to Adty.)
Heavy Ship	A heavy ship with screen passed latitude of May Island at 1846, course 025°, speed 16 knots. exercising with searchlights and star shells between 1915 and 2000 (Capt. S. 9. 1953/4 to S/M O.23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CHESAPEAKE — (British Tanker, 8955 tons) Ashore Scarweathe Sands. Bumbing. Require tug at once. (Burnham on Sea Radio 0319/4 to Adty.)

CITY OF DUNKIRK — (British, 5861 tons) Dur Durban 30/10 from Milford Haven. Not arrived (S.O.I.Cape Town 0915/4 to Adty.)

SLEIPNER — (Norwegian Destroyer) H.M.T. OLYMPIA collided with SLEIPNER while latter at anchor on 2/11 making deep dent in SLEIPNER's side and causing slight leaks. (C. in C., Rosyth 0942/ and 1719/4 to Adty.)

MARIS STELLA — (Belgian Trawler) Broke adrift while in tow of LORD STANHOPE at 1500/2, grounded at Robin Hood Cove, and is a total loss. (C. in C., W.A. 1116/4 to Adty.)

WALNUT — (M/S Trawler) Grounded on North Goodwin during passage of C.E. 15 Newat Sheerness for docking and repair. Will not be ready to accompany next C.W. Convoy. (C in C., Nore, 1145/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

BELGIQUE — My 1802/1. Arrived Bahia Blanca 3/11. (S.O.I. Freetown 1808/4 to Adty.)

? — VIVIEN was detached on receipt of Humber Radio Signal and has picked up in position 053° 50' N., 000° 25' E., two bodies and a C.B. these are being sent into Humber in PUFFIN, no sign of other bodies. Only clue bit of wreckage floating (LONDONDERRY 1131/4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys	Situation at 2000/4. (C. in C., W.A., 1421/4)
O.G. 45	Not sighted. Request route from 51.00 N., 20.20 W. (SALOPIAN, 1014/4) Reply (C. in C., W.A. 1244/4) Position (GLENAFFARIC 1750/4) (C. in C., W.A., 1935/4)
S.L. 14	Left 1100/4, escort ESPERANCE BAY (S.O.I. Freetown, 1125/4)
H.X. 83	Position at 2000/4. (C. in C., W.A. to ACTIVE, ACHATES, HURRICANE, HESPERUS, 1540/4) SKEENA and SAGUENAY to join S.C. 9. at 1545/5 (C. in C., W.A., 1950/4)
S.C. 9.	7 hours late. Poistion at 0845/5 routed as in my 1439/3. Join Convoy as far to Westward as possible. (C. in C., W.A. 1420/4 to GARLAND) Sail H.M.C.S. ST LAURENT to join convoy S.C. 9. Details follow. (C. in C., W.A. 1751/4 to N.O.I.C. Greenock) Leave H.X. 83 in time to join S.C. 9 due 55° 18' N., 19° 00' W., at 1545/5 course 100°. 7 knots (Route) (C. in C., W.A. -1950/4, to SKEENA and SAGUENAY)
O.B. 239	O.B.O. 239. Only available escort Trawler has defective steering gear. Intend sailing H.M.S. CAMELLIA with O.B. 239 to R.V. off Oversay then to escort 5 ships to Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1810/4)
F.S. 27	F.S. Convoy 27 now in 2 parts as Tyne and Tees contingents were late in joining. WESTMINSTER and QUORN with 15 ships BOOTY I (position) WALLACE and AMETHYST with 16 ships BOOTY II, 20 miles astern. (WESTMINSTER, 1201/4)
C.W. 16	Intend to sail C.W. 16 (14 vessels) from Southend at 1100/6 (time table). Escort E/ Destroyers FERNIE, BERKELEY, A/S Trawlers AGATE, DEODAR, ASH, CHESTNUT BAY M.B.B. vessels GATINAIS (S.O.) PINGOUIN RENE LE BESNARAIS FRATTON MAMMOUTH, PINTADE RAMIER. M.L's 116 (S.O) 114,118,119,120 and 171 if ready. (C. in C., Nore, 1650/4)
H.G. 46	CILICIA to R.V. (F.O.C.N.P. 1614/4)

/S.L. 53.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd.

S.L. 53 — DERBYSHIRE to R.V. (F.O.C.N.P., 1614/4)

Rescue Ships — My 1714/11/8. Hoped special vessels will shortly be available as rescue ships. Meantime rear ships of columns to be detailed (D.T.D. 2108/4)

BADOUIN etc. — My 1058/2. Intend sailing these ships today (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1023/4)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Ready to sail. Request instructions (P.S.T.O Clyde, 1257/4)

ADDA — Route to Faroes. (C. in C., W.A. 1305/4)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 4 A. and W.S. 4 C. — Left 1/11 (Details) (D.S.T. to C. in C., Med., 2023/4) PRETORIA CASTLE to join W.S.4 A and escort slow portion to be known as W.S. 4 C. CORNWALL to continue escorting W.S.4 A to Suez. (D.O.D. (F) 1435 to C. in C., S.A.)
Your 1803/3. DELIUS (came back) is to remain with convoy. (D.D.D. (F) to C. in C. W.A., 1355/4)

W.S. 4 B. — My 2335/3. Position re ships in Clyde. Date of leaving. (D.S.T., 1955/4)

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

DJENNE
MASSILIA

My 1522/2. Further arrivals DJENNE and MASSILIA in 55.35 N., 7.15 W. on 3/11 from Gibraltar by route as in my 1913/28 bound for Liverpool. (D.O.D. (H) 1615/4 to C.in C. W.A.) DJENNE passed Gibraltar 0900/4 (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1624/4) DJENNE weighed for Casablanca 1800. (Cascoigne, Tangier, 1900/4) My 2012/2. French N.A. states DJENNE will go to Casablanca to fuel after passing Gibraltar 4/11. He will inform me of sailing date from Casablanca. (N.A., Madrid, 1934/4 to Admty.)

S/M
PONCELET
Bombed.

French S/M PONCELET bombed, no hits. Under way after first attack. Appeared to be leaving after first attack. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 1717/4)

CUBA,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Proceed and act in accordance with my 1831/3. If any French warships close or show signs of interfering with CUBA or escort they are to be told they cannot be allowed to do so and must leave the vicinity, force being used if necessary though hope this will be avoided. Otherwise act in accordance with my No.126. French warships not to be allowed to proceed south but may go to Dakar or Casablanca. A/S trawlers SPANIARD (Senior Officer) PICT and BENGALI leave Freetown at 0500/5 and proceed for position 009° 30' N. 017° 05' N. at 9 knots, may be used as required. (C.in C. S.A., 1745 N/4 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN.)

North Atlantic.

ARK ROYAL. F.O.C.N.A. 2306/3. WISHART, VIDETTE sailed 0800/4. (S.O.I., Gib., 0040/4).

Operation Hats. Please consider following possibilities for Repeat Operation Hats starting 7/11 (S.O. Force H to ARK ROYAL, 1225/4) See Med. Vol.

Italian S/M at Tangier. See U-Boat Campaign, S/M's Reported.

Air Recce. Daily Summary Operations. (200 Group, 1715/4)

Unknown Warship, St.Michaels. My 1830/1. Report same source dated 1230/2, same unknown warship continues going round island St. Michael's at average distance of 15 miles. Seen proceeding south following cargo vessel coming from east. (Consul-Gen., Lisbon, 1853/4, to Admty.).

Troop Transport. Transfers of troops to take place after dark 6/11, to BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, GREYHOUND, FAULKNOR, GALLANT, GRIFFIN, FORTUNE, FURY. Not more than about 200 troops to be on deck from passing Tarifa until after dark 6/11. (S.O. Force H, to BERWICK, 2006/4).

/ Italian U/B's sunk. ...

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Italian U/B's sunk. My 2311/19. Following is being issued to Press. "2 more Italian U/Boats have been destroyed. The hunt in one case was carried out in co-operation with the R.A.F." (D.F.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 1959/4).

South Atlantic.

VICTORIA CASTLE. To escort slow ships of W.S.4A, to be known as W.S.4C. (D.O.D. (F) 1435/4).

CORNWALL. To continue escorting W.S.4A to Suez. (D.O.D.(F) 1436/4).

Overdue Ships. CITY OF DUNKIRK. CITY OF DUNKIRK due Durban 30/10 from Milford Haven not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0915/4).

BELGIQUE My 1802/1. BELGIQUE arrived at Bahia Blanca 3/11. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1803/4).

ESPERANCE BAY Left 1100/4 escorting S.L. 54, thence to Greenock. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1125/4).

RESOLUTION. Your 0213/19. To be sailed for U.K. via Gibraltar when ready. (D.O.D.(F) 1519/4 to C.in C. S.A.)

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN. Dutch M/L. Not to call at St. Vincent and Lobito. Proceed direct from Ponta Delgada to Freetown, and on passage Freetown - Capetown use Walfisch Bay as emergency port of call. (D.O.D. (P) to N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2052/4).

Freetown Dock Facilities. Suggesting R.E. dock operating officer be appointed to co-ordinate work and act for all departments. (S.O.C. West Africa to W.O., 1618/4).

Mediterranean.

Enemy Intelligence. A/C report 1 cruiser 5 merchant vessels, 39.40 N., 17.30 E., Course 220° speed 15 knots, at 1105 zone minus 2. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1047/4 to TRITON) (Capt. S.1 to TRITON, 1219/4).

Lights. Delimara and St. Elmo, to be exhibited on request. (Malta W/T, 1121/4).

Air Recce. Malta Situation Report to 1700/4. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1730/4).

TRUJILLO
CARRIYA
CARANZA Owners prepared to arrange for interception of JOSE TRUJILLO and CARRIYA, both in Barcelona loaded with food for Genoa. CARANZA will be treated in same way or

/ cargo ....

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

TRUJILLO
CARDIXA
CATANIA
(contd.)

cargo discharged in Barcelona.
(N.A. Madrid, 1919/4, to F.O.C.N.A.)

AJAX,
SYDNEY,
KINGSTON CRYSTAL

Arrived Port Said 4/11. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 2145/4).

Drafting, Alexandria.

Re establishing of a local drafting office at Alexandria. (C.in C. Med. 1647/4).

Bombing of Naples.

Instructions contained in A.M. Signal X.2 30/10 carried out night of 3/4 by 4 Wellingtons. 2 bombed 0.11 from 9,000 feet - 1 bombed 0.11 and railway junction from 1,500 feet. Fourth Wellington failed to locate target or suitable alternative target and returned with bombs. Naples well blacked out. Outward and return route to target was same as for previous attack. W/T silence was broken by 2 aircraft on return journey. In addition to the 4 aircraft mentioned, 3 other aircraft took off for the raid. 1 of these returned with bombs soon after taking off being unable to climb higher than 4,000 feet. The other 2 crashed soon after taking off. Cause as yet obscure. 1 Officer and three airmen killed - 1 airman seriously injured. 2 civilians were killed. Owing uncertainty cause of these accidents decided cancel departure of further aircraft.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1000/4).

Assistance to Greece.

Suda Bay.

Admty. 0137/31. Request a Captain R.N. with experience of organising a base be sent by quickest route to take charge at Suda Bay. As interim measure request Lt. Com. H.R.N. Nichols R.N., acting N.O.I.C., be granted rank of Acting Commander. (C.in C. Med. 1313/4).

Reported Naval Action off Corfu.

Re report by Mil. Attache of Naval action off Corfu. This was telegraphed 1400/3 although action stated to have taken place at a distance of 15 miles at 2000/2. Four observation posts on W. Coast of Corfu reported nothing. Report considered extremely unlikely. (N.A. Athens, 1321/4).

/ Operations. M.B. 8. ....

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Assistance to Greece.(Continued)

Operations. M.B.S.	Details of movements and operations planned, M.B.S which includes Operation "Coat". (C.in C. Med., 1337/4) See Med. Vol.
Operation Cont.	Request you sail for operation as requisite, detaching Force F (date) to R.V. with me. Plans. (C.in C. Med., to S.O. Force H., 1336/4).
Assistance to Greece.	Decided to give Greece greatest possible material and moral support at earliest possible moment. Details - Chiefs of Staff telegram No. 23. (1 S.L. 1918/4, to C.in C. Med.) See Med. Vol.
Situation.	Situation in Greece extremely favourable for rapid action against Italians. Details. (Services Attaches, Athens, 2106/4.)

East Indies.

U.S.6.	Convoy U.S.6 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0329 Z/4).
Enemy Aircraft.	Your 0938/24, locations of enemy aircraft. Height assumed same as during recent raid. Some check given by range at which minima occur. (S.N.O. Red Sea Force to S.O. Force H, 12442/25/10, received 1227/4)
LEANDER B.N.S. bombed.	LEANDER reports convoy B.N.S bombed at 0540 Z/4. No damage reported. Position 14.25 N., 42.26 E. (C.in C. E.I., 1026/4).

Intelligence Summary No. 145 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/4.
3 Blenheims 203 Squadron Fighter escort Convoy B.N.S using advanced base Kamaran, 1 remaining Kamaran overnight. At 0650 position 14° 22' N. 42° 36' E. 1 S.79 attacked at 14000 feet dropping 6 bombs nearest 100 yards from convoy escort. Chased E.A. towards Yemeni Coast for 10 minutes closing from 4 miles to 75 yards. Enemy top rear engine silenced, gunner believed casualty and aircraft forced down to 50 feet last seen flying slightly west near Ras Mujamela, 14° 37' N. 42° 35' E.

/ Combat .....

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Combat broken off when front guns jammed. One bullet in petrol tank of escort. 1 Glenn Martin French Flight Photographic and visual reconnaissance 0900 to 1145 shipping in Assab area and possible troop concentrations coastal strip Assab-Thio. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1727/4).

B.M. 8½ — HECTOR and RANCHI will form Force R for B.M.8½. After making R.V. with Force Q, HECTOR to proceed Bombay and RANCHI to Colombo (C.in C. E.I., 0610 Z/4).

China.

Greek Shipping. — Requesting position of all Greek shipping in Pacific. Urgently required by Greek Minister, Tokyo. (N.A. Tokyo, 1121/4) N.A. Tokyo's 1121/4. All available information has been passed to N.A.Tokyo. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1031 Z/4 to Admty.)

Instructions in A.M. 2003/28 are still generally in force modified in the Pacific as follows:
Greek shipping outside Mediterranean is under control of Greek Shipping Committee in London, whose intention is rather to avoid excessive concentration of ships in Japanese waters than to veto all voyages to Japan. Orders will be given individually to any ships which they decide can proceed to destinations in Japan. Seven ships have already received such orders. Shipping will be allowed to proceed to Japan more freely when it is seen that Japanese assurances not to detain are borne out in practice. (Head of M. 1919/4 to C.in C's China, A.W.I. etc.)

French Shipping, YALOU. — Following from Mauritius censorship (begins) Cable and radio intercept indicates ship possibly YALOU leaving Haiphong not before Tuesday with cargo of cement and rice latter to be on loaded (? after calls) reunion then Tamatave possibly Majunga. Consignee finds difficulty to ensure against owners scuttling but Bank of Reunion appears to be able to through Vichy. (Ends). (Colombo 0947/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S/M Report. Panama.

Panama reports unidentified S/M reported off Cape Mala, U.S. authorities conducting search by sea and air. (S.O.I., Kingston, 0832/4).

DIOMEDE.

Your 1052/2. Tortola departure 4/11, oiler SAN ADOLF for Bermuda, DIOMEDE for patrol. (DIOMEDE, 1231/4 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

WYOMING OREGON

Admty. 1650/14/10. French ships WYOMING and OREGON sailed from New Orleans for Liverpool at 1400/1. Date of arrival (N.A., Washington, 1061/4).

CHARLES L.D.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1032/31. Desirable to intercept French ship CHARLES L.D. if possible and send her into British port. (D.E.W.D., to C.in C. A.W.I., 1737/4)

U.S. Destroyers.

Proposals for manning last 10. (1 S.L. to C.N.S., Ottawa, 1751/4).

Australia.

Greek Ships.

Admty. 2005/26. Greek Consul-General has received instructions that Greek ships are free to sail for China and Japan. Request confirmation (A.C.N.B., 0747/4 to Admty.)

KURUMBA

D.S.T. 1625/2, re bunkering at Fremantle. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA will be available. (A.C.N.B., 0841/4).

N.E.I. NAVY.

Your 1707/24. Arrangements will be made accordingly. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne, 1386 Z/4 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

For Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LAHNECK. Following received. LAYNECK passed Scalar Lt. No. at 7 a.m. Bessan, draft 17 ft., passengers 6, general cargo 1488 tons and 25-ton motor boat on starboard foredeck, pilot Roschdestensky. (Scapa W/T, no T.O.O. 4/11).

LAHNECK, PATAGONIA, SARDINIER PATRIA. Evidence that larger ships are being employed in Baltic bringing timber from Russian ports to Germany. This trade has recently been confined to German ships of less than 1600 tons or to Finnish and Persian ships. (D.S. 426).

EISENACH My 1123/3. Port Limon reports no evidence confirming report. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1115/4).

CERICO. Guayaquil reports has orders to provision and leave without papers. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1529/4).

RIO GRANDE. 2200/31, German RIO GRANDE left Port Rio Grande. (F.O.C.N.A., 1835/4, to ships N.A. Stn.)

NORDMEER. Para reports commenced loading 250 tons coal from AFFONSO PENNA. Presume will take more but could leave at once. 1130/4. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1716 2/4, S.O.I. Freetown, 1802/4).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FELIA. My 1123/3. Port Limon reports as evidence confirming report. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1115/4).

MUHANO 1003/2. Has on board 5687 tons of fuel oil. (A.1). (Consul, Teneriffe, 1129/4).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

YALOU See Foreign Stations, China.

MEXICO
ORIENTE
CHANTIERS
L.N.E. } See Foreign Stations, and W. Indies.

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

LAURENTIC (torpedoed 3/11)
PATROCLUS (torpedoed 3/11)
CASSANDRA (torpedoed 3/11)

Later report from LAURENTIC gives position 54.09 N., 13.24 W. at 2251. (C.in C. W.A., 0121/4, to HESPERUS, HURRICANE, ACTIVE, ACHATES). Your 2353. Expect to arrive 0428. ACHATES in company. (ACTIVE, 0136/4, to C.in C. W.A.)- Report situation (C. in C. W.A. to LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS, 0201/4). Informing KENYA to keep well to northward (C.in C. W.A. 0205/4). Third ship sank in vicinity at 0400. Am searching for S/M before picking up survivors of LAURENTIC. (ACHATES, 0304/4) See 0355/4. Search for S/M so far unsuccessful. Have found PATROCLUS crew. Both ships sunk. Key position 53.55 N., 14.40 W. Am picking up crew. (ACHATES, 0355/4) Have embarked survivors from motor boats of LAURENTIC in 53.53 N., 14.22 W. LAURENTIC has sunk. (HESPERUS, 0350/4). Officer of PATROCLUS informs me he sighted periscope about 0700. My 0304 was incorrect. Crew of PATROCLUS and LAURENTIC only been located. (ACHATES, 0355/4).
Sailed tugs THAMES and ASSURANCE to assistance of LAURENTIC in 53.55 N., 14.30 W. Tugs MARAUDER and DILIGENT have been diverted to assistance of CASSANDRA in 53.56 N., 14.13 W. (C.O.I.C. Greenock, 0026/4).
Continue hunt. Join N.X. 83 by dark tonight Monday. (C.in C. W.A. 1527/4 to ACTIVE, ACHATES, HESPERUS, etc.)
Your 1435/4 and my 1527/4. Circumstances permitting you will be detached to return to harbour at daylight tomorrow. (C.in C. W.A. to ACTIVE, 1657/4)

ROSINA TOPIE, escaped.

Following from Philadelphia:
Master Yugo-Slavia ship ROSINA TOPIE reports having been stopped and boarded by Italian S/M 13/10 in position 032° 56' N. 027° 10' W. S/M was of usual Italian type and carried two guns. After questioning ship was allowed to proceed on voyage.
Action of Italian S/M which stopped ROSINA TOPIE would suggest that they are widely open to counter action by Q ships. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1041/4).

MEGGIE.

One lifeboat with 10 men from torpedoed Swedish vessel MEGGIE landed on North Coast this morning. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1301/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0700 (see ACHATES 0355/4 - Ships Attacked) Join ACHATES to hunt S/M in approx. position 53.53 N., 14.40 W. at 0700/4. (C.in C. W.A. 0351/4, to ACTIVE, HURRICANE, HURRICANE).

1100. S/M reported 57.57 N., 06.05 W. at 1100/4. (C.in C. W.A. to CLEMATIS, 1311/4). S/M sighted from shore at 1100 in 57.47 N., 06.05 W. (C.2). (A.C.O.S., 1419/4).

0333. 59° to 60° N., 19° to 21° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 426)

1600. U/B reported by a/c 57.48 N., 06.05 W. at 1600. My position 57.33 N., 06.53 W. Investigating. (CLEMATIS, 1620/4). ST. ALBANS proceeding from Port ZA to investigate. (R.A.M.L., 2222/4).

1730. Convoy O.G. 45 (position). S/M submerged in 50.52 N., 20.14 W., approx. 6 miles distant. (CLEMATIS, 1750/4).

1856. Attack U/B in 50.52 N. 20.14 W. at 1856 (C.in C. W.A. 1919/4 to OTTAWA, HARVESTER). My 1919. Commodore reports Convoy O.G.45 (position) at 1650 G.M.T. U/B submerged 50.52 N., 20.14 W. approx. 6 miles distant. (C.in C. W.A.1933/4 to OTTAWA). My 1919. Keep clear of U/Boat and join convoy later. (C.in C. W.A. 1943/4 to BALOPIAN)

Off Panama. See American and West Indies.

1922. 59° N. 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 427).

2300. 55.40 N., 15.30 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 427).

Tangier, Italian S/M's. No. 1943/4. My telegram unnumbered of S/11 "ESPANA" this morning reports Italian S/M's stem was damaged but I do not put much reliability in this report. It may have been inserted on purpose. Am not taking any action regarding S/M vis-a-vis new Spanish Authorities here pending any instructions which you may give me. We are doing all possible to watch and report ships. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 1310/4).

/ Captain Inigo, ...

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Tangier, Italian S/Ms. (contd.)

Captain Luiset, now acting Administrator, tells me he has warned Colonel Yuste who in turn has warned Italians that submarine must leave within 24 hours, i.e. at 10 hours to-night. Italians however have asked Spaniards to secure opinion of a Spanish Naval engineer who will examine the vessel. Latter will presumably report damage, gravity of which will be in accordance with Italian requirements. Examination is to take place this evening. Luiset does not know whether vessel is genuinely damaged or not, but evidence which I have been able to collect indicates her powers of surface speed not impaired. Her faculties of submersion may, however, be affected.
(Consul, Tangier, 1700/4 to F.O.C. N.A.)

Tangier, 2nd Italian U/B.

My telegrams 3/11 and 4/11. A second Italian S/M entered Tangier Harbour at 1630. She is tied up alongside yesterday's. (Cascoigne, 1900/40). Second Italian U/B of different type from that reported in my 1836/3 entered Tangier at 1806. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty. 1018/4).
My 1900/4. Submarine which entered port this evening was followed two British destroyers but it was not going at same high surface speed as submarine of yesterday. As regards submarine which arrived yesterday new "Governor" Tangier zone tells me that local engineer who examined her today considers that damage will take two weeks to repair. This is to be confirmed by a Spanish Naval engineer. Action of British destroyer yesterday in refraining from firing on Italian submarine after latter had reached our territorial waters has been much admired by Spanish here.
(Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2230/4, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Admty. 1141/4. Details of Italian U-boat. Circumstances of visit were she was chased into Tangier Harbour by three British destroyers two of which stayed outside Tangier teeritorial waters while the third came in almost as far as our mole. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2235/4).

/Estimated U/B dispositions. ....

MOST SECRET.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - No news.
German - 1 was in 55° 53' N. 14° 40' W. at 2322/3 and will probably move northwards.

Probably 3 in N.W. Approaches and further west, of which 1 was in area 58° to 60° N. 19° to 21° W. at 0333/4, another may possibly have been in 53° 07' N. 14° 45' W. about 1600/3, no news of the third.
1 more possibly in about 61° N. 6° W. homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1242/4).

MOST SECRET

5.11.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Home Fleet

The Home Fleet returned to Scapa today from Rosyth.

Harwich Submarine Base

Harwich Submarine Base was closed today.

Convoy H.X. 84 Attacked by ADMIRAL SCHEER

At 2006 today JERVIS BAY escorting H.X. 84 in mid-North Atlantic signalled that an enemy battleship (ADMIRAL SCHEER) was in sight and reports that the convoy was being attacked were received. RENOWN, BARHAM and destroyer escort were ordered to raise steam. AUSTRALIA was ordered to R.V. with F.O. 1st B.C.S. in HOOD with 2 ships of 15th C.S. and screening destroyers who proceeded to cover the approaches to Brest and Lorient against enemy's return.
5 Town class destroyers on passage to U.K. were ordered to spread to locate the SCHEER, and three which were nearest the position of attack were ordered to close Convoy H.X. 84 to rescue survivors and to attack the raider by night if opportunity offered. REVENGE was ordered to the Clyde and ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Halifax.

Enemy Air Activity

VIMIERA escorting Convoy F.N. 27 was attacked this afternoon off Whitby by an aircraft which dropped one torpedo without hitting.

Trawler CASPIAN reports damage this morning 24 miles N.W. of Hoy by a small bomb lowered by an aircraft on a long wire which parted, the bomb burst on the water.

H.M.Drifter REIDS was attacked at 1650 off Brightlingsea and had some casualties, although no damage is reported.

The Irish Mail Steamer ARDMORE was machine-gunned this morning, 5 miles north of Strumbles Head. No damage is reported.

Bombs were dropped in Portland dockyard today but no damage resulted.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place off the East Coast last night.

Mines were detonated today at Sheerness, Tyne and Plymouth.

Milford Haven is open in daylight only.

North Atlantic

H.M.Govt. are pressing for the internment of the two Italian submarines in Tangier, if they have not left within 24 hours of their arrival. Both submarines are reported to be damaged. N.A.Madrid reports that the Spanish Govt. has assumed full responsibility for the strict application of international law in connection with the two submarines.

Mediterranean

Bombs were dropped in the Grand Harbour Malta today, but no damage resulted.

Enemy Air Activity against Greece increased today. Kastoria was bombed 11 times today.

MOST SECRET.

5.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

French Warships.

My 2314/4. LA CAPRICIEUSE is manned by R.N. and CHEVREUIL by Free French. (C.in C. W.A. 1304/5 to Adty.)
C.in C. W.A. 2314/4. Entirely concur with proposals for LEOPARD. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1152/5 to Adty.)

ARISTOCRAT.

It is understood that on arrival of MONA's ISLE at Rosyth it was intended to allocate ARISTOCRAT to C.in C. Nore for Local Defence duties in the Thames Estuary. Of the 10 yachts belonging to this flotilla 5 are at present unfit for service. Remainder seriously depleted by casualties and long overdue refits. Nocturnal minelaying by enemy aircraft shows no sign of abating. Request consideration to allocation of ARISTOCRAT to Sheerness as soon as possible. (C.in C. Nore 2152/5 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 2330/4. (D.C. 0001/5) At 1130/5. (D.C. 1140/5).

Rosyth A/A Defences.

C.in C. H.F. 1027/3/11 and Admiralty 1846/3/11. After discussion with G.O.C. 3rd A.A. Division it has been decided that best means of covering searched channel East of Inchkeith is to replace the four guns which were removed from the site R.N.G.(8) near Kinghorn. No guns could be surrendered from sites at present occupied without prejudicing the defence of other vital points. Required therefore that four additional guns may be made available for site R.N.G.(8) near Kinghorn at the earliest possible opportunity. Essential that these guns should be fitted with apparatus for engaging unseen targets. (C.in C. Rosyth 1637/5 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LA MALOUINE — Arrived Londonderry. (N.C.O.I.C. Londonderry 0945/5).

CHALLENGER — Propose to sail in PS. 29 for Blackwall. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1047/5 to Adty.)

JERSEY
JUPITER — On completing exercises proceed to Dartmouth. Run 2-speed Destroyer Sweep if opportunity offers. (C.in C. W.A. 1141/5 and Capt. D. 5th D.F. 1405/5) Cancel my 1200. Return to Plymouth arriving after 1700. (C.in C. W.A. 1510/5 to JERSEY, JUPITER)
ETA. Eddystone 1800 (JERSEY 1725/5 to JAGUAR)

Scapa. — Arrivals. (A.C.O.S. 1143/5 to Adty.)

LEAMINGTON, LEEDS, SHERWOOD, MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL. — 1458/1. Expected pass through Position C about 0400/9. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1156/5 to Adty.)

Nore Command. — Movements to 1200/6. (C.in C. Nore 1200/5 and 1826/5).

Western Approaches. — Situation at 2000/5. (C.in C. W.A. 1305/5).

Dover. — Patrols for Night 5/6. (V.A. Dover 1401/5).

JAGUAR
JUPITER — Proceed 1730 to join JUPITER. Both Ships patrol Eddystone to 3° West, returning Plymouth 0930/6.
(C.in C. W.A. 1622/5 to JAGUAR)

Operations.

FURIOUS. — My 2113/4. This movement is in connection with help to Greeks.
(1st. S.L. 0017/5 to C.in C. H.F.)
Your 0017/5 and 0218/5. FURIOUS has rudder defect which requires 3 days docking as stated in my 1757/14/10, and defective regulating limits her speed to about 23 knots. New valve ready at Devonport 7/11 and would take Ship's staff 60 hours to fit.
Consider both defects should be made good before sailing. FURIOUS available now. Request relief for docking and that new valve be sent by courier as soon as ready. (C.in C. H.F. 1119/5 to Adty.)
My 2113/4. Provisional stowage of Hurricanes described. FURIOUS will not

/ enter ...

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

FURIOUS (contd.)

enter Takoradi but will fly off A/C in Bay. Expected that all 34 can be flown off in less than about 6 hours. (5th S.L. 1326/5 to FURIOUS).
Arrangements have been made to dock FURIOUS at Liverpool. Request you sail her as soon as possible. (D.O.D.H. 1644/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

Interception of U/V.

Air reconnaissance reports a ship similar to S.S. BUESKOL of Elling Aarsed Line of Aalsund steaming North Westward from Trondjheim. This ship is expected to call at Jan Mayern Island and FRIDTHOF NANSEN is to proceed there with despatch to intercept her. Vessel is to be captured and considered as an enemy regardless of Flag or papers. Any documents or apparatus on board are to be recovered intact.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1735/5 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Operation COAT

Proceed to Gibraltar with Ships in company at best possible speed.
(1st S.L. 2226/5 to BERWICK).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

JERVIS BAY Report

JERVIS BAY Enemy Report. Am leaving it to Adty. to divert Convoy as necessary. (C.in C. A. and W.I. 1632/5 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)
One Enemy Battleship bearing 328 distance 12 miles course 208, position 53° N. 32° W. 15 miles. (JERVIS BAY 1706/5 to Whitehall W/T)

RANGITIKI

52° 45' N. 32° 13' W. RANGITIKI gunned. GRAF SPEE class. (Reed. Scapa Base W/T. 2001/5)

CORNISH CITY.

52° 50' N. 32° 15' W. CORNISH CITY shelled. (Scapa Base W/T 2005/5)
Note. This was broadcast on Home Station Waves and passed to Bermuda and Ottawa.

Convoy S.C.10.

Enemy Raider GRAF SPEE Class attacking Convoy H.X. 84 in 52° 45' N. 32° 13' W. Steer to the Southward. (V.C.N.S. 2019/5 to FOLKESTONE). My 2019/5. Correct all before one. (H.W.R.2030/5 to FOLKESTONE)

Position.

Pocket Battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER is operating in North Atlantic. Last known position 52° 50' N. 32° 15' W. at 2005/5/11. (1st S.L. 2028/5. "A" Message Home and Abroad 517.A.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (Freetown)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN to proceed to Halifax at best possible speed, fuelling at Bermuda if time will be saved thereby. (V.C.N.S. 2125/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

RENOWN, BARHAM.

RENOWN, BARHAM, and Destroyer Escort raise steam. (V.C.N.S. 2128/5 to F.O. Force H).

Convoy S.C.10.

My 2019/5. Cancel instructions to steer to Southward. (V.C.N.S. 2132/5 to FOLKESTONE).

Attack continuing.

Received 2040 G.M.T. from s.s. SOVAC. Convoy still being leisurely attacked by Raider GRAF SPEE Class in 52° 50' N. 32° 15' W. (Portishead Radio 2140/5 to Adty.)

AUSTRALIA.

Raise steam and R/V with Battle Cruiser as ordered by F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. (C.in C. H.F. 2145/5 to AUSTRALIA)
Raider apparently GRAF SPEE Class attacking Ships one by one leisurely about us. Position I have given is same as that of CORNISH CITY. It is going on hot around us now. (SOVAC 2145/5 to Portishead Radio)

/ BEAVERFORD .....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

ADMIRAL SCHEER. (Continued)

BEAVERFORD. BEAVERFORD shelled in 52° 26' N. 32° 34' W. (Valentia Radio 2147/5).

Town Class Destroyers. My 2028/5. Steer for Tory Island. Spread to twice visibility distance. If Battleship is located, shadow by day and attack by night. (V.C.N.S. 2219/5 to LEEDS, SHERWOOD, LEAMINGTON, MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL).
My 2028/5. Close Convoy H.X.84 attacked by Battleship in 52° 57' N. 32° 23' W. Rescue survivors. Attack Battleship by night if opportunity occurs. (V.C.N.S. 2225/5 to LEWIS, LINCOLN, LUDLOW)

1 B.C.S. Intend pass through 58° 40' N. 7° 30' W. at 0830/6, thence through 55° N. 13° W. and South along 13° W. to 50° N. Speed 16 knots. Then to cover approach to Brest and Lorient against return of Pocket Battleship reported in 52° 45' N. 32° 13' W. at 1700/5. R/V in 57° 16' N. 9° 40' W. at 1500/6 or during daylight 7th. My Force will be addressed as Battle Cruiser Force. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 2230/5 to AUSTRALIA)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. If filled with fuel before leaving Freetown, proceed in accordance with Adty. 2125/5. Adty. 2028/5 refers. (C.in C. S.A. 2319/5 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN)

Submarines.

Brittany Coast. Mined Area. My 1546/4. Second position should read 47° 56' N. 5° 48' W. (Capt. S.2. 0719/5 to TRIDENT)

UNIQUE. Propose to sail P.M./6 to replace L.27 in W.2 and S.3. (S.S. 0965/5 to V.A.S.)
Approved, subject to concurrence of C.in C. Portsmouth (V.A.S. 1252/5 to S.S.)
Leaves Portsmouth 1500/6 to patrol in Areas W.2. and S.3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1657/5 to Adty.) V.A.S. 1252. Concur (C.in C. Portsmouth 1914/5 to S.S)

CLYDE
SEVERN
WHITE BEAR. My 1829/1.
(A) CLYDE SEVERN and WHITE BEAR are to be transferred to 3rd S/M Flotilla as mutually arranged by Captains S concerned, dates being reported.
(B) On arrival of TITANIA at Holy Loch S.3 is to take over from S.2, new construction submarines during their trials and working up period. (V.A.S. 1032/5).

/ TRIUMPH .....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines (Contd.)

TRIUMPH. TRIUMPH has completed working up period after long refit and is (?) thought fit for service but I do not consider she should carry out a prolonged or intensified patrol except in emergency until after arrival Malta. (V.A.S. 1248/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

S/M's for A/S training. C.in C. W.A. 1933/4 and paragraph 7 of Admiralty 1143/2. H.28 is now the only submarine ex Harwich. The additional Submarine required by C.in C. W.A. at Holyhead can be met by H.28 on completion of A.S.V. Trials in Rosyth Area in about a fortnight's time.
The question of extra Submarines for A/S training should therefore not arise until the Dunoon commitment of 2 S/Ms in 1941.
(V.A.S. 1249/5 to Adty.)

Your 1933/4. Concur with proposed area off Holyhead. H. 28 from Harwich will be joining 7th S/M Flotilla in about a fortnight and will be available for A/S practices in your command.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1842/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

S/M. O.22. Passes Bell Rock 1800/5. Route. (Capt. S.9. 1417/5 to S/M's Area A).

TRIDENT) TUNA) My 1427/5. Movements. (Capt. S.2. 1504/5 to TRIDENT)

TRIUMPH) TIGRIS) Off Bishops Rock 0130/6. Movements (Capt. S.2. 1524/5 to TRIDENT)

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1556/5)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/6. (V.A.S. 1644/5)

USK. Movements. (Capt. S.5. 1645/5 to USK).

H.43. Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/5)

L.23 L.26 L. 23 in Area B and L.26 in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M./6. (A.C.O.S. 1725/5 to Adty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air R/C. No Air R/C during the night. S.A.9 will be flown at 0800. (C.in C. Nore 0749/5 to V.A. Dover).

Bombing of Coastal Batteries Request Coastal Command supply A/C to bomb Batteries on 6/11 as in C.in C. Nore's 1554/4. (Air Ministry 1630/5 to Coastal Command)

Belfast Lough. Area of temporary additional restrictions on A/C is defined as follows. (R.A.F.N.I. 1700/5 to Air Ministry).

Air Escorts. For 6/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1948/5).

A/C from FURIOUS My 2113/4. 816 and 825 Squadrons are to disembark one to Campbeltown and one to Lee-on-Solent with complete Squadron Personnel and mobile equipment. R.A.N.A.S. requested to arrange training for these Units while FURIOUS is abroad. (5th S.L. 1328/5 to FURIOUS).

Enemy Air Activity.

South Shipwash. At 0359/5, 3 A/C plotted as circling near South Shipwash. Not reported by any Ship and no Flares seen. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0417/5 to C.in C. Nore)

ARDMORE. (Irish Mail Steamer) Machine-gunned by A/C at 0630, 5 miles North of Strumbles Head. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1122/5 to Adty.)

Home Fleet. There are indications that your position was reported by Enemy A/C at 1033. (D.D.I.C. 1228/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

VIMIERA. Enemy dropped one Torpedo and disappeared Eastward. Not hit. My position 54° 30' N. 0° 30'W. (VIMIERA 1658/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CASPIAN. Trawler. Reports leak and damage by small Bomb from A/C 24 miles N.W. of Hoy at 1030/5. Bomb lowered on long wire which parted and Bomb burst on the water. (A.C.O.S. 1703/5 to Adty.) Details of attack (A.C.O.S. 1812/7).

REIDS. H.M. Drifter. Attacked by A/C at 1650/5. 3 seriously injured, 1 slightly, landed at 2205. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 2331/5 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sheerness.	Mine detonated at 01000 in 305° 3 cables from East Tongue Buoy. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0245/5 to C.in C. Nore).
Milford Haven.	Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0701/5) Port open by Channel QZS. 183 in daylight only, subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0958/5 to Adty.)
Thurlestone.	German Mine washed ashore on 31/10 at Thurlestone, South Devon. Request its removal. (Ince 1035/5 to Adty.)
Tyne.	One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated at 1110/5 in 111° 2.2 miles from North Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1135/5 to D.M.S.)
Plymouth	Since my 1536/2, one Red Mine detonated single L. at 0924/5 20 yards East of Melampus Buoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1526/5 to Adty.)
Sweep of QZS. 148.	My 1806. Intend to sail 8 Fleet Sweepers S.O. NIGER at 0745 tomorrow to carry out high percentage searching sweep of 1½ miles on west side of centre line of QZS 148 from junction of 7 QZF to position 'Z' and back on eastern side down to north east Swin Light Vessel. Request Fighter protection from 0830 to 1730 between 52 degs 08 north 01 degs 53' east and 51 degs 48' north 01 degs 30' East. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1810/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat.	Suspicious craft, believed E-Boat, circled to S. of me near Sunk Light Vessel and made off to S.W. Report from Patrol H.R. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0421/5 to C.in C. Nore). Suspect E-Boat near our Patrol. Report from PAUL RYKENS. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0450/5 to C.in C. Nore).
Enemy Convoy.	A/C reports one Escort Vessel and 3 M/V's in 49° 48' N. 4° 15' W. at 0825, proceeding westward. Investigate and report. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/5 to JERSEY, JUPITER)
Southern Sound.	(1) Falsterbo buoyed channel has been moved to westward so that vessels now follow five fathom line about four miles west of Falsterbo and pass between Lillegrund and Bredalisd. (2) Progress on Falsterbo Canal indicates that it will open Spring 1941. (N.A. Stockholm 1220/5 to D.N.I.)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FURIOUS — See Operations.

One M/V. — In tow 5 miles S.E. of Girdleness at 0100/5. Proceeding to Methil at 5 knots. (C.in C. Rosyth 0040/5).

DORMITOR. — (Yugo-Slavian, 5623 tons). Due Batavia 17/10 from Lorenzo Marques. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Singapore 0209 2/5 to C.in C. China).

MELROSE ABBEY (British, 1908 tons) / CARTERATAN (British, 1811 tons) — Report collision in 31° N. 19° 25' W. at 0913. Investigate and report. (C.in C. W.A. 1000/5 to OTTAWA, HARVESTER)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

C.W.16.

My 1650/4. A/S trawlers delete AMETHYST, LADY PHILOMENA substitute KINGSTON OLIVINE LORD PLENDER. (C.in C. Nore, 1643/5)

H.G.46.

Providing endurance of ships in convoy permit route for H.G. 46 amended as follows: (C.in C. W.A. 1421/5).

Convoy H.X. 83.

My 1950/4 and my 0031/5 escorts are not to leave convoy H.X. 83 until further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 0505/5 to SAGUENAY, SKEENA, ACTIVE).

H.X. 83.

At 1015/5 H.X.83 was reported by enemy aircraft. (D.D.I.C. 1143/5).

H.X.83.

To avoid possible U-boat alter course forthwith to 090° until 09° 00' W. is reached thence to splitting position. (C.in C. W.A. 1125/5).
U-boat probably shadowing H.X.83 (D.D.I.C. 1513/5).

H.X. 84.

Attacked by raider GRAF SPEE class (see North Atlantic Raider)

O.B. 239.

LA MALOUINE has taken the place of ANEMONE in O.B. 239. She will rendezvous with convoy daylight 6/11. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1145/5).

O.B. 236.

Amended route to keep clear of S.C.9 (C.in C. W.A. 1153/5)

O.G.46.

F.O.I.C. Greenock 1255/31. Intend sailing HAARLEM and ERIN in convoy O.G.46.(C.in C. W.A. 1800/5).

S.C.9.

Cancel my 0505/5. Escorts with H.X.83. Act in accordance with my 1950/4 and my 0031/5. (C.in C. W.A. 0817/5 to SKEENA, etc).

O.G.45.

Following received from GLENAFFARIC (begins) Convoy dispersed during night rendesvous in position 046° 33' N. 020° 20' W. noon 6/11 thence route Gibraltar (ends.) Reference 0630 from authority indicated. (C.in C. W.A., 0819/5, to SALOPIAN).

S.L. 52.

Convoy S.L. 52 estimated to be in position 052° 46' N. 019°50' W. at 0800/5 steering to pass through 053° 50' N. 017° 35' W. thence through 054° 10' N. 015° 50' W. at 8½ knots. If not in contact join S.L.52 forthwith. (C.in C. W.A. 0837/5 to OTTAWA, HARVESTER).

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Troop Convoys.

Shipping.

W.S.4A.

Admty. 1436/4. What is present position and route of W.S.4A? (VICTORIA CASTLE, 0619/5) Comply with Admty. 1436/4. W.S.4A is proceeding by following route. (C.in C. S.A. 0959 M/5)

PASTEUR

Your 2006/4. PASTEUR urgently required in U.K. for further troop movements. (D.O.D. (F) 1150/5 to F.O. Force H).

Greek Shipping.

My 2005/28. Movements of Greek vessels outside Mediterranean and Black Sea now controlled by Greek Shipping Committee, London. (D.T.D., 1152/5).

STRATHAIRD
ORCADES

STRATHAIRD and ORCADES arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1940/5).

FRANCONIA

Desired to sail to Jamaica with Gibraltarian refugees, and she should be provided with A/S and ocean escort. She should R.V. with the A.M.C. Escort of H.X.87 when she leaves the convoy, and be escorted to Halifax. She will afterwards proceed independently to Jamaica. C.in C. W.A. is requested to sail FRANCONIA with Convoy W.S.4(b) (date) and arrange for her to leave the convoy escorted by two of the destroyer escort so as to rendezvous with A.M.C. as necessary. (D.O.D.(H) 1528/5).

Rescue Ships.

Admty. 2102/4. Presumed this refers to ocean convoys, as detailing rescue ships by name in coastal convoys not practicable owing ships joining and leaving at intermediate ports and changes in formations of convoy during voyage. Propose to continue present practice that rear ships of columns in coastal convoys are always rescue ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1226/5).

A.M.C. Cargo Space.

Admty. 1226/19/10 and C.in C.S.A.2052/30/10. Any space available in homeward bound Armed Merchant Cruisers after service requirements have been met should be used for commercial cargoes purchased by Ministry of Food or Ministry of Supply details of which are known to Elder Dempsters' Freetown House. You should arrange supply from local sources of any dunnage required to ensure efficient stowage of cargo. (D. of S.T. 1038/5 to D.S.T.O. Freetown).

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Oil Supplies
JEANNE D'ARC
BEARN

Navy Department have given me following received from their observer at Martinique. Tons of oil at Martinique and Guadeloupe. JEANNE D'ARC was recently refulled at Government tanks. Present supply sufficient to supply Merchant vessels for one month and Island two months. Naval vessels supply sufficient for two months except for BEARN which has supply for only one month. (N.A.Washington, 1021/5)

Petrol,
Madagascar

Shell Co. state their Agent in Madagascar has telegraphed that 36000 gallons Aviation Spirit originally supplied for use of R.A.F in April 1940 has been requisitioned on instructions of Vichy Government and that Military are enquiring for further 245000 litres from Shell Co. (S.O.I. Capetown 1023B/5)

Shipping,
Rio

French N.A. Rio de Janeiro whose sincerity is undoubted informs French Embassy Rio de Janeiro received 31/10 telegrams indicating that French Government propose shipping supplies from South America using in the first instance 4 French Ships now at Buenos Aires. Same source opines that Admiral Darlan whom he mistrusts may be contemplating recovery of prestige by attempting to run escorted French Convoys to and from South America. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1645/5)

French
Repatriation

My 1522/2. Following French ships are proceeding to U.K. from U.S.A. with Admiralty approval. WINNIPEG, SAN FARNCISCO, WYOMING and OREGON. (Route)
Possible these ships may endeavour to make Casablanca or other French port. If encountered off their route they should be sent in. (D.O.D. (F) 1706/5 to C. in C., S.A., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P.)

/Dakar.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Dakar
Intelligence

My 1151/31 and 1105/1. Following obtained from Lt. Montezer escaped from Dakar; French Intelligence Officer of ten years experience.

1. Arrival four submarines and tanker 26-27/10, also departure of tanker and one submarine shortly after arrival and return same day. Rumoured from various sources including two submarine sailors that tanker on that day met South East of Cape Manuel at least seven submarines nationality unknown.

2. SS MARRAKECH is making six trips with munitions from Casablanca for replenishment of local defence requirements. Stated shells were French but fuses German.

3. Date of arrival commission for trial of Bois Lambert and others not known; expect trial would take one month. Belief expressed that he will be shot.

4. About a month ago, volunteers were called for from French Navy at Dakar for an expedition to "The South" Up to his departure, 29/10 only forty per cent of number required had been obtained.

5. Fleet controls Dakar. Pro-British airmen and military officers are being sent back to France and replaced by pro-Vichy.

6. When air plans are complete there will be 300 to 400 Glen Martins and Curtiss and fighters in Dakar area.

7. Estimated twenty Germans now in Dakar; three are members of disarmament commission and one controls shipping.

(C. in C., S.A. 2009/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operation "White" ARGUS	Asking if Hurricanes can fly in full moonlight 2 hours before daylight etc., (S.O. Force H to ARGUS 1146/5) Reply. Yes, provided weather is clear. Position 40 miles further westward can be accepted provided upper air is not easterly. (ARGUS to S.O.Force H., 2031/5) Your 1905/4. Two Skuas have been embarked in ARGUS for this purpose. Air Ministry have arranged for 2 Sunderlands from Malta to be provided by H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O. Force1512/5)
Destroyers	Re heavy commitments and shortage when S.O. Force H sails on operation "Coat". Request A/S escort for ARGUS to Gibraltar be provided by U.K. (F.O.C.N.A., 1240/5 to Adty.)
URSULA	Suggested leaving night of 7/11. (S.O. Force H 1601/5) Cancel my 1601 URSULA has developed defects which will probably require 10 days to complete. (S.O.Force H. 1935/5)
TRIUMPH	Your 2302/30. Route (F.O.C.N.A. to V.A.S. 1204/5)
ARGUS DESPATCH	Intend sailing, escorted by VESPER, VENOMOUS, WINDSOR, at 1000/7 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1617/5)
Raider	Pocket battleship attacking convoy H.X.84 RENOWN, BARHAM etc., to raise steam (V.C.N.S. 2128/5) See North Atlantic Raider HOME COMMANDS.)
Enemy Air Reconnaissance	Situation report. Martin Recco. over Rock 1237/5 driven off by A.A.Fire. (Governor, 2107/5 to W.O.)
Italian S/M's Tangier	Your 1836/3 and 1918/4. Consul General Tangier has been instructed to press for internment of Italian submarines in Tangier zone if they have not left zone within 24 hours of their arrival. Ambassador at Madrid has been instructed in similar terms and asked to enquire what steps the Spaniards propose to take to intern the submarines. (Ad. of M. 0121/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Second....

MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Italian S/M's Tangier-Contd.

Second submarine which entered port last evening is reported as being of WOOLICHANI class (Janes Fighting Ships 1939 page 286) Both submarines are alongside jetty and both have their W/T rigged.
(Consul-General, Tangier. 1045/5)

"Governor" Tangier explained to me as follows.
Submarine "A" which arrived 3/11 has secretly now been reported to him by (one) a local engineer and (two) a Spanish Naval Engineer as suffering from damage to the stern. Gear starting machinery is broken, and the submarine cannot dive; electrical machinery is also out of order.
This only a provisional report, thought submarine has suffered further injuries. Diver was examining her this morning.
At expiry of 24 hours (i.e. at 1750/4) he had formally instructed Captain to leave the port but latter has pleaded that he could not do so owing to damage. Repairs to damage already assessed would take at least two weeks; probable that diver would find further damage.
If it was found repairs could not be effected in Tangier, submarine and crew would be interned.

As to submarine "B" which entered harbour p.m/4 its Captain would be instructed to sail within 24 hours (ie. by 1830/5 unless it was proved that damage was of sufficient seriousness to necessitate his vessel's further stay in Tangier.
(Consul-Gen., Tangier 1230/5, to F.O)

Spanish Attitude

Chief Naval Staff informs me Spanish Government has assumed full responsibility for strict application of International Law in connexion with the 2 Italian S/M's now at Tangier. Minelayer JUPITER has been sent to Tangier to enforce compliance. Orders given for first S/M not to be allowed to leave. Same order will apply to second after 24 hours expires about 1800 today. First S/M has claimed damage rendering him unseaworthy. Bow obviously stove in at least 3 feet. Diver sent to inspect under water damage. It is not yet clear if second S/M has damage.
(N.A.Madrid, 1357/5)

/Asking....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Asking Permission to Attack.

If Italian U-Boat on leaving Tangier remains in Spanish territorial waters may she be attacked after a period of 24 hours from time to time of entering Tangier while still in territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A 1616/5 to Admty.)

Your 1615/5. It is regretted that violation of international law governing territorial waters cannot be approved. (D.O.D. (F) 2133/5).

My 669. At 17 hours this evening Ministry received a note from "Governor" of Tangier informing me that as local diver was not available a telegraphic request had been made to Spanish Minister of Marine at Madrid that one should be sent to Tangier with all speed from Cadiz. There would therefore be a 48 hours delay before examination of submerged portions of submarine "A" could take place.
Note further stated above did not alter the fact of "impossibility to navigate in which submarine now found itself", a certainty which had been confirmed by Spanish Naval Engineer.
(Consul Gen., Tangier, 1930/5)

No. 670. Discusses political aspect at length. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, T.O.D. 1522/5)

89. Tangier reports position unchanged. Depot ship still alongside both submarines See Consul General Tangier 670. to Foreign Office. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 2128/5)

Second S/M Damage Use of W/T

My 2040/5. My immediatly preceding telegram. "Governor" Tangier informs me as regards Submarine "B".
2. This vessel had had trouble on sea bottom and had bumped itself so that one propeller blade had been shorn off, and propeller shaft had also become bent, and this caused engine to overheat. In addition electrical apparatus was defective.

/Question.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Second Submarine Damage. Use of W/T- Contd.

Question of Repairs.
Spanish Naval "Interventor" who is in charge of them while they are her admitted their W/T had been rigged all day but that this had now been taken down.

Two submarines were coming from Atlantic to Mediterranean, and had an extremely difficult time with currents in Straits. Captain of Submarine B told Colonel Yuste that he broke surface thinking that he was opposite Ceuta.
(Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2210/5.)

Hague Rules

Your 1357/5. Article 17 of the 13th Hague Convention must be interpreted to mean that a vessel is entitled to put itself in a condition to navigate safely having regard solely to conditions of sea and weather. Consequently a belligerent submarine in a neutral port is entitled only to effect such repairs as will allow it to navigate with safety upon the surface.
Above contention may also be supported by reference to the provision in the same article that warships in neutral ports may not add in any manner to their fighting force.
Above interpretation of the rights of a submarine to effect repairs in a neutral port was accepted by H.M.G. when TRIAD was damaged earlier in the war and took refuge in Stavanger. (Head of M., 2250/5 to N.A.Madrid)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

TROPIC STAR — My 0925B/4. TROPIC STAR arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0935B/5)

Petrol, Madagascar — Requisitioned by Vichy French. (See Operation Against Vichy French) (1023B/5)

Suspected Ship — My 1404/30, re cargo ship, suspected Italian has been passed to you for information. Adty, and S.O.I., Capetown, reports ship cannot be identified. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1042/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Troop Movement — My 2010/4 and C. in C., E.I. 0656/5. Arrangements for ATHLONE CASTLE, LLANDAFF CASTLE, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and SELANDIA, transport of troops to Mombasa. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1605B/5, to Adty.)

CUBA — C. in C., A.W.I. states report received from St. Lucia that CUBA carries gold packed in small box marked Rum Sugar. (C. in C., S.A. to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MORETON BAY DRAGON, 2013/5)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — To proceed to Halifax at best possible speed. (V.C.N.S. 2125/5 to C. in C., S.A. C. in C., S.A., 2319/5) (See HOME COMMANDS North Atlantic Raider)

ALMKERK — ALMKERK is estimated to be in position 009° S., 010° W., at noon/5 steering for position 011° N., 019° W., speed 15 knots. If encountered she should be instructed to pass to westward of Cape Verde Isles out of sight of land and to rejoin her original route in latitude 037° N., (C. in C., S.A. 1209H/5 to BULOLO)

BELGRAVIAN Foodstuffs — My 2023/3 from Spanish mission received 5/11 states foodstuffs in BELGRAVIAN not required by Governor French Cameroons as ther is an adequate stock at Duala. In view of all previous negotiations which finally resulted in permission being obtained to hand these over free of charge, please confirm that situation has been misrepresented and that food is not required. BELGRAVIAN due to sail 6/11 for Manoka anchorage. (C. in C., S.A, 1825/5 to Govr. Nigeria.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Trujillo Ships-Contd.	N.A.Madrid 1919/4. As improbable that interception of ships could be arranged M.E.W. is warning Trujillo Line that cargoes must be unloaded. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1822/5)
REGENT	Leaves at 1600/6 for diving trials and patrol. (N.O.I.C., Malta 1701/5)
HOTSPUR	Your 1337/1. Date to complete repairs. Intended to sail HOTSPUR for Malta with Operation Collar. (F.O.C.N.A. to C. in C., Med., 1120/5)
Fulmars	Re shortage of. Asking consideration to drafting from a carrier similar to "Hurry" (C. in C., Med., to Admty., 2017/5)
Italian S/M GONDAR (sunk 30/9)	F.O.C.N.A. 1020/1. (report of diving operations) GONDAR had tubular structure before conning tower, etc. Consider contained device similar to those employed at Gibraltar. (C. in C., Med, to Admty.) (1741/5)
Danube	Enemy Intelligence from Wiesbaden from representative summoned to discuss ex-French Danube lighters. (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1230/5, to D.N.I.)
Air Report	Reconnaissance of Taranto, Brindisi and Corfu did not take place 5/11. Large number of small coasters at Argostoli. Bombing attacks carried out on oil patches in position 035° 40' N., 023° 37' E., 035° 44' N., 016° 24' E. Nil results. T.O.O. 1853/5 (V.A.Malta, 1857/5)
Huelva	Consul Huelva reports Spanish SS CABO ORAGATRY from Bilbao to Barcelona is reported to have a number of aircraft bombs for Italy. (D.3.) (2) Italian SS GAETA still unloading. Cargo leaving by rail (true) (3) Cork being sent by rail to Irun. (true) (N.A.Madrid 2317/5)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Suez Canal Administration

Admty. 0027/9/7. Not altogether satisfied with Bonnet's visit. (Reasons)
Definitely known that De Benoist is already receiving instructions from New Canal H.Q. at Chatel Guyon and Bonnet's visit may herald attempt at intensification of French control of Canal Affairs at expense of British Control.
Consider De Benoist is already placed in a most difficult position in receiving orders from both London and Chhtel Guyon, and that following action is immediately necessary (Details)
Return or impending return of certain more highly placed officials, of whose attitude I am ignorant, has given me grave cause for concern.
Consider, unless strong British control of Canal Company is immediately imposed we risk a swing to control from France and local support of Vichy. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1129/5 to Admty.)

61. Request that no more Suez Canal Company's employees be allowed to return to Egypt until a reply has been received to my 1129/5 to Admty. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1132/5 to Ambassador, Cairo)

Air Attacks on Sicily

Governor Malta's 1633/9/7 and your 1449/10/7 Now that offensive operations against Italy are being undertaken by R.A.F. Bomber aircraft operating from Malta, request you will consider use of naval Swordfish squadron at Malta offensively against some of the excellent targest in Sicily. (D. of P. 1726/5 to C. in C., Med.)

Aircraft for Greece

A 690 5th Nov. Secret. Your (? 907) 1133 5th November. Bombays up to (?4) per day will be flying to or from Greece daily for approximately next 3 weeks. In addition Blenheim and Wellesleys will fly to or from Greece on days when weather suitable. (H.Q., M.E., to C. in C., Med. 1727/5)

French Fleet Funds

Your 1425/31 re release of French Funds. French Fund in U.S.A. has not been released and 22,000 pounds Egyptian were supplied to French Fleet on 29/10. Para 2 has been answered by my 2141/1. (C. in C., Med 2021/5 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterrancan

Assistance to Greece.

Minelaying by Aircraft	Attacks, Athens, 2106/4. Suggesting Durazzo (D. of P. to C. in C., Med., 1322/5) See Mediterranean Volume)

East Indies

EL HAFI	Left Kamaran p.m./3 for patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0613Z/5)
Seychelles Defence	Requesting reply to his 1058/24. Question being placed before Ceylon Govt. today (C. in C., E.I. 0734Z/5 to Admty.)
Whalers	My 0774/27. Re minesweeping equipment. (C. in C., E.I., 0744Z/5)
KIMBERLEY	Requesting new main steam pipe be sent to Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 1510Z/5)
Whalers	Proposed renaming.,(C. in C., E.I., 1210Z/5)
Aden	Re improvement of handling facilities and power supply. (C. in C., E.I., 1940Z/5)
Air Reconnaissance	My A. 728 4/11, Summary No 145 French flight reconnaissance and no changes observed or photographically revealed at Raheita, Markhama Bay, Eddi, Hilul, Eid, Thio, Meder since last reconnaissance and no apparent activities. No new shipping Assan and no south Red Sea dhow traffic observed. Slight A.A. from Assab. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1804/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Greek Shipping

Your 1121/4. Control of Greek shipping outside Mediterranean placed in hands of Greek Minister, London, who is issuing sailing instructions. Following ordered to proceed to Japan. (list) (D.T.D. to N.A. Toyo, 0020/5) (C. in C., China, 0443Z/5)

DURMITOR

Yugoslav, due Batavia 17/10 from Lourenco Marques, not arrived. (S.O.I. Singapore, 0209Z/5)

Singapore Construction

Defence Conference rumoured building of local defence craft at Singapore be exploited to maximum. Request approval to keep building berths full. (C. in C., China, to Admty, 0223Z/5)

Hong Kong Japanese A/C

3 Japanes bomber aircraft passed over Hong Kong at 0825 local time 4/11. Request you will protest. (C. in C., China 0241/Z/5 to Ambassador, Tokyo.)

Shanghai Staff

F.O. tel. 1193 to Shanghai. Consider S.O.I and R.N.O. must remain for present and that if evacuation becomes necessary attempt be made to get them and staffs in--cluded in Consular list. (C. in C., China 0359Z/5 to Admty.)

Wei-Hai-Wei

Evacuation of stores, craft etc., complete M.O.I.C. and 1 rating will proceed Shanghai shortly. (C. in C., China 0804Z/5)

Japanese Shipping

My 1047/30. Following sailings of Japanese merchant vessels also appear to have been cancelled: ASAMA MARU Kobe to Shanghai 6/11. HELAN MARU Yokohama to Seattle 6/12. ASAMA's departure for San Francisco 29/11 is still listed. (N.A. Tokyo, 1137/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Town Destroyers

Your 1321/4. Retain STANLEY until further orders and report state of CHESTERFIELD. (R.A. 3 B.S. to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1032/5)
Your 1751/4. Glad to provide C. and M party for 7 destroyers. Consideration will be given to R.C.N. taking over one of 9 destroyers complete should you favour such action. (C.N.S., Canada, 1147/5 to Admty.)

French Shipping

Proposal to run French escorted convoys from S. America (See Operations Against Vichy French)

Raider H.X. 84 Attacked

JERVIS BAY report C. in C., A.W.I., 1632/5 (See HOME COMMANDS, North Atlantic Raider)

SAKURA MARU

S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 2111/10. New York reports SAKURA MARU boarded before arrival by United States coast guards who are convinced no foundation in statement. (c. in C., A.W.I., 1844/5)

Australia

U.S. 8.

My 0829/18. U.S. 8. N.Z.N.B. number now 5246 all ranks including 1500 to embark Lyttelton. Australian requirements 12700. Total 17046 all ranks. Also required if possible 300 naval for Mediterranean. (A.C.N.B., 06292/5, to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

IDARWALD — Your 1723/21. Tampico reports ships was loading 200 tons coal and may sail soon. (S.O.I. Kingston 2102/5 to C. in C., A.W.I)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

GAETA — Consul Huelva reports still unloading. Cargo leaving by rail. (N.A.Madrid 2317/5)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CARAIBE — N.C.S. Officer Lourenco Marques reports Rennie and sons there received telegraphic request from Messageries Maritimes Mombasa and Madagascar for names of agents at Mozambique to handle CARAIBE. This ship believed to be at Diego Suarez. My 1823/21/10 Refers. (S.O.I. Capetown 1133A/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LAURENTIC
PATROCLUS
CASANARE
(Torpedoed 3/11)

My 1657/4 to ACTIVE. Two destroyers only are to be detached to proceed to Clyde with survivors. ACTIVE arranging any necessary transfer of survivors. When well clear of convoy, S.O. detached destroyers is to report names. (C. in C., W.A. 0031/5 to SAGUENNAY, ACTIVE)

SCOTTISH MAIDEN

British, 6993 tons. Sunk by U-Boat in position 54.32 N., 14.38 W at 0155. Have 23 survivors (BEAGLE+ 0320/5)
In Convoy H.K 83 (D.S. 427) Ship torpedoed in position 54.40 N., 14.16 W., (SAGUENAY 0230/5) Informing N.O.I.C. Greenock. (C. in C., W.A. 0523/5) Tugs ASSURANCE and THAMES ordered to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0757/5) THAMES and DUNMORE HEAD sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0857/5) MARAUDER to sail instead of ASSURANCE whose steering gear is defective. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0859/5) Your 0757. Believed ship in my 0230 was SCOTTISH MAIDEN (SAGUENAY, 0946/5, to N.O.I.C. Greenock) My 0757 Sailed MARAUDER in place of ASSURANCE (F.O.I.C. 1025/5) Your 0230/5 and BEAGLE 0320/5. When clear of convoy report in accordance 752 AZ with particular reference to any U-Boats sighting or contact. (C. in C., W.A. to SAGUENAY, 1102/5)

MELROSE ABBEY

British 1908 tons. SSSS 51.40 N., 17.08 W. Chased by submarine (MELROSE ABBEY, 0824/5 0836/5) Require immediate assistance 51.03N 19.35 W., (MELROSE ABBEY and GARTBRATTAN, 1041/5)

GARTBRATTAN

British 1811 tons (See MELROSE ABBEY)

MEGGIE

Swedish 1583 tons. According to report dated 27/10 an Italian submarine 60 miles southwest of Island Santa Maria sank Swedish ship MEGGIE. A lifeboat with Captain and 9 of men arrived San Miguel. Another life boat with chief officer and 9 men is missing. Portuguese destroyer LIMA has gone out to search for it. Source (A. Zero) (Lisbon, 1818/5 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

5.11.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0230 Submarine reported in 54.40 N., 14.16 W., at 0230/5. (C. in C., W.A. to ships in Area B. 0449/5)

0050 D.F. probably U-Boat 58.30 N., 15° W., unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 0120/5)

0106 D.F. probably U-Boat 58.20 N., 10.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 0137/5)

0230 A.F. message 54.40 N., 14.16 W., at 0130/5 (D.D.I.C. 0515/5)

0940 Attack enemy submarine in reliable position at 48.55 N., 20° W 0940 (C. in C., W.A. to HARVESTER and OTTAWA 1022/5) Position given as 48.54 N., 20.09 W. (D.D.I.C., 1034 5) Your 1022/5 Since 1115 have searched around position and 25 miles to the southwards. My position 048° 59' N., 019° 12' W Intend proceeding to arrive in accordance with your 1000/5 at daylight tomorrow Wednesday. HARVESTER in company. (OTTAWA 1931/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian 1 in Azores Area
German 1 in 54° 40' N., 14° 16' W., at 0230/5 may be following H.X. 83 if she has any torpedoes left. Otherwise homewnrd bound Northabout.
3 more in N.W. Approaches and farther West of which 1 was in area 58° to 60° N., 19° to 21° W at 1922/4, another may have been in area around 58° 30' N., 15° W., at 0050/5 and the third in area around 58° 20' N., 10° 30' W., at 0106/5, apparently not yet homeward bound as suggested yesterday. (D.D.I.C. 1214/5)
My 1214/5 add German 1 was in 48° 54' N., 20° 09' W at 0940/5 (D.D.I.C. 1534/5)

Submarines Attacked

0940 One submarine bearing 081 distance 5 miles position 48.54 N., 20.51 W., Ame engaging (SALOPIAN, 0940/5) When sighted S/M was on surface steering 150° and submerged after SALOPIAN opened fire. (SALOPIAN 1002/5)

MOST SECRET

6.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

C. in C., H.F. in NELSON with RODNEY SOUTHAMPTON and 6 destroyers left Scapa at 0700 today to cover the Iceland-Faroes passage.

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. detached REPULSE, BONAVENTURE and 3 destroyers at 1100/6 to proceed direct towards the area of yesterday's attack.

REVENGE was ordered to proceed to the Clyde to provide escort for west bound convoys.

Orders were sent to stop or turn back convoys and to stop independent sailings in the danger area. Convoys H.G. 46 and S.L.F. 53 were ordered to proceed to position 37° 30' N., 20° 0' W and thence towards Gibraltar; RENOWN and 3 destroyers proceeded at 0400/6 to meet and escort them to the U.K.

BARHAM reverted to the usual notice for steam.

At 2107 the Admiralty ordered RODNEY to proceed towards Halifax to escort homeward bound convoys to the U.K.

A destroyer and corvettes were sent to round up the scattered ships of convoy H.X. 84.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN returned to Freetown with boiler defects.

Submarine and air watch on the French Atlantic ports have been arranged.

R.C.N. destroyers are covering Canadian Coastal waters and approaches, and aircraft of Canadian Air Force carried out a reconnaissance today from 600 miles towards the reported position of the raider, without result.

At 2208/6 the general indication by D/F was that ADMIRAL SCHEER had moved to the northward.

/Convoy C.W. 16....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy C.W. 16 Shelled

Convoy C.W. 16 was shelled by enemy coast batteries at 2245 today while passing Dover. 14 rounds were fired but no damage is reported.

2 Enemy Supply Ships Sunk

STURGEON reports that she sank a 2000 ton supply ship 3/11 and a 1200 supply ship 6/11 while on patrol off the south coast of Norway.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Wellingtons attacked the Railway Terminus and quays at Brindisi successfully.

Attacks, apparently very successful, were made on the Seebach Shipyards at Bremerhaven, Deutsche Shipyards at Bremen and Naval Docks at Emden, by 19 Wellingtons which dropped 16 tons of bombs last night.

Channel Ports were also successfully attacked last night.

During the day, merchant vessels in Cuxhaven harbour were bombed from a height of 50 ft., one burst being seen under the stern of a large M.V.

A Convoy of 8 or 9 M.V's was attacked off the Helder; results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Two Beauforts on offensive patrol attacked a convoy of 12 ships 18 miles S.W. of Terschelling. One torpedo hit a large heavily laden merchant ship, causing her to heel over and make for shore while other merchant vessels went to her assistance.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Pembroke Dock was bombed early this morning; military but no naval damage was caused.

No 4 Dry Dock, Southampton is unusable owing to a U.X.B. dropped at 1500 today. Another H.E. bomb dropped near the dock during this attack caused no damage.

Convoy W.N. 31 Attacked
CLAN MACKINLAY
HARBOROUGH

Convoy W.N. 31 was attacked this evening 30 miles S.E. of Duncansby Head. CLAN MACKINLAY (6365 tons) and HARBOROUGH (5415 tons) were set on fire and abandoned. The latter was taken in tow for Scapa. The former is believed to have sunk later.

Convoy S.L. 52 Attacked
NALON

Convoy S.L. 52 was attacked this morning 220 miles west of Blacksod Bay. NALON (7222 tons) was bombed and abandoned. Two tugs have been sent to bring the ship in; she carries a valuable cargo of copper.

OLGA

OLGA (British 2252 tons) a straggler from Convoy H.X. 83 was attacked 15 miles N.W. of Islay this afternoon, but no damage is reported.

Reconnaissance of Faroes

An enemy aircraft is reported to have made a reconnaissance flight over the Faroe Islands this afternoon.

Mining

ELGIN Damaged

M/S Trawler ELGIN was slightly damaged by a near mine explosion off Harwich p.m. today. Another mine was destroyed by fleet sweepers.

GIRL HELEN Sunk
SEVRA Sunk

Dan-laying drifter GIRL HELEN was mined and sunk off the Tyne 1030 today.
M/S Trawler SEVRA was mined and sunk off Falmouth about noon today.

/Ports Affected..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Ports Affected

Enemy aircraft were engaged in minelaying in the Humber last night, and were believed to be minelaying off the East Coast and North East Coast.

The original approach channel to Milford Haven was reopened today.

Four more mines were exploded off Plymouth.

Falmouth was closed early, and mines were later exploded.

Mines were exploded in Firth of Forth and Bristol Channel.

Operation
B.8. 45

Further mines were laid today in the East Coast mine barrier.

North Atlantic

ARK ROYAL, BERWICK, GLASGOW and accompanying destroyers arrived at Gibraltar p.m. today from the U.K. V.A.Force H transferred his flag to ARK ROYAL on arrival.

SHEFFIELD arrived at Gibraltar this morning from Azores patrol.

ENCOUNTER (screening RENOWN) and UTMOST (on passage to join Meditn. Fleet) were in collision about 140 miles west of Gibraltar at 1225 today. Both ships were slightly damaged but require docking. FORESTER escorted them to Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

AJAX and SYDNEY arrived at Suda Bay p.m. today with Bofors batteries.

Operation "Coat"

The Mediterranean Fleet sailed to cover the operations and meet Force F (BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW and 3 destroyers, for Medtn. Fleet)

Mines on Yugoslav Coast

A broadcast from Budapest at 0216/6 states that on account of mines having been washed up on the Yugoslav coast navigation is prohibited in certain regions, and all navigation at night along the entire coast.

East Indies

SS BARON HERRIES reports that she sighted a U-Boat periscope about 330 miles E. of Madagascar this morning.

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE and VAN KINSBERGEN are proceeding to establish a patrol to the eastward of Martinique, to intercept French merchant vessel CHARLES L.D. which left Casablanca for Martinique 29/10.

MOST SECRET

6.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 2330/6 (D.C. 2336/6) At 2330/5 (D.C. 0012/6)

Movements

BULLDOG — C. in C., H.F. 0059/6. Intend sailing BULLDOG for Sknale Fiorde Faroes at 1400/6 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/6)

Destroyer Escorts.

EDINBURGH — In addition to the sailing of ARGUS on 7/11 the following commitments for destroyer escorts have to be met in the near future:-
A. 14/11. Ships specified in para A.2 and A. 3 of my 0218/5.
B. 17/11. Convoy W.S.4.B consisting of liners carrying troops (numbers)

2. In order to assist with B, the three destroyers lent from the Nore are to remain under C. in C., W.A. for the present.

3. EDINBURGH will be required as ocean escort for W.S.4.B.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1059/6 to C. in C., W.A., C. in C., H.F.)

PRINCE BAUDOUIN — Intend sailing at 1900/6, speed 16 knots, expected time of arrival Milford Haven 0800/7 for onward routeing Invergordon. (N.C.S.O Dartmouth, 1023/6)

REVENGE — Detail 3 destroyers to relieve JACKAL, JUPITER, JAGUAR as escort to Clyde at 0800/7 in position 52° 43' N., 05° 18' W., Return Liverpool after escort duty. REVENGE to amend R.V. if necessary (C. in C., W.A. 1037/6 to Capt. D. Liverpool, WARWICK, WALKER and VANSITTART detailed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1540/6)

Nore Command — Movements to 1200/7 (C. in C., Nore, 1200/6)

Dover — Patrols for night 6/7 (V.A.Dover, 1417/6)

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET

6.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys and Shetlands	Movements for night 6/7, estimated position 2000 (A.C.O.S. 1527/6-1529/6)
HECTORIA	Sailed escorted by ERIN and HAARLEM in accordance with my 1320/6 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1544/6)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 6/7 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 160306)
Western Approaches	Movements for night 6/7 (C. in C., W.A. 1622/6.) My 1630/6 Amend as follows (C. in C., W.A. 1900/6)
BULLDOG	Sailed for Faroes 0059/6. Expected time of arrival Skaale Fiord 0900/8 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1705/6 to N.O.I.C. Faroes)

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER	A. NEWCASTLE is to carry out orders given in my 0218/5. B. REVENGE is to sail tomorrow 6th Nov. for Clyde and will provide escort for Westbound convoys. (V.C.N.S. 0008/6 to C. in C., W.A.) S.L. 53 to steer for 37° 30' N., 20° W and thence towards Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. T 0010/6 to ARAWA) Turn H.G. 46 round and steer for 37° 30' N 20° W., and thence towards Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. T. 0011/6 to WELLINGTON) RENOWN proceed with despatch towards 37° 30' N., 20° W. Transfer your flag as convenient, and subsequently to ARK ROYAL or SHEFFIELD on arrival for Operation COAT. (V.C.N.S. 0018/6 to S.O. Force H) Turn ships in company in S.L. 53 slow to course 080° until further orders. (A.C.N.S. T 0019/6 to NESTLEA)

/Convoys H.G. 46...

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

Convoys H.G. 46 and S.L.F. 53 have been instructed to proceed to position 37° 30' N., 20° 00' W., and thence towards Gibraltar. They will probably reach position named about 1900 7th November. Escort S.L.F. 53 is ARAWA.

Estimated positions of convoys at 0100/6 H.G. 46 42° 10' N., 19° 30' W. S.L.F. 53 32° 40' N., 25° 10' W.
Convoy S.L.538 unescorted has been ordered to steer 080, and its estimated position at 0100/6 is 36° 30' N., 26° 558 W. You should assemble convoys and proceed towards U.K. some ships of H.G. 46 may have to fuel in Irish ports.
(D.T.D. 0035/6 to RENOWN.)

Convoy B.H.X. 86 to return to Bermuda
(A.C.N.S. T. 0053/6 to MONTCLARE)

Convoy H.X. 86 is to return to Halifax.
(A.C.N.S. T. 0056/6 to VOLTAIRE)

Convoy S.C. 11 is not to sail till further orders. (A.C.N.S. T. 0057/6)

CORNWALL with W.S. 4 A steer for 42° N., 23° W. RENOWN is proceeding to 37° 30' N., 20° W. (A.C.N.S. F. 0101/6 to CORNWALL)

O.B. 240 is not to be sailed till further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 0103/6 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Your 2128/5. RENOWN, BARHAM, and Destroyer Escort ready to proceed 0115/6 (S.O. Force H. 0104/6 to Adty.)

My 1435/4 is to be held in abeyance for the time being. PRETORIA CASTLE to steer for 42° N., 23° W., (AC.N.S. F. 0117/6 to PRETORIA CASTLE, CORNWALL)

My 2125/5. Report intended track and speed
(D.O.D. F. 0123/6 to C. in C., S.A.)

My 2128/5. BARHAM revert to usual notice for steam. (V.C.N.S. 0120/6 to F.O. Force H)

/340. My 0001/6...

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ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

340. My 0001/6 Detach REPULSE, one ship of 15 C.S. and three destroyers to proceed direct towards last known position of raider referred to in Admiralty's 2028/5 to destroy the enemy if he remains on the convoy route.
Admiralty is requested to communicate information regarding convoys in that area to REPULSE. Request A/S air escort for REPULSE. Ends. (C. in C., H.F. 0125/6 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

RENOWN sails 0400, speed 25 knots. Route towards 37° 30' N., 20° W., SHEFFIELD keep clear to North of Straits. (F.O.C.N.A. 0300/6 to SHEFFIELD)

Your 0057/6 and your 0056/6. Holding S.H.X. 86 and S.C. 11 until further orders (N.C.S.O. Sydney, Cape Breton 03082/6 to Adty)

B.C. 1's 2230/5. Request A/S Air Escort for AUSTRALIA. (C. in C., H.F. 0422/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

Adty's. 0018/6. Gibraltar departure 0400/6 RENOWN, FORESTER, ENCOUNTER, GALLANT. (S.O.I Gibraltar 0530/6 to Adty.)

C. in C. H.F's 0125/6. Convoy H.X. 84 originally 38 ships 8½ knots, escort JERVIS BAY, attacked in 52° 50' N., 32° 15' W., at 2000/5, now probably dispersed in mean position 53° N., 31° W., at 0800/6. Convoy S.C. 10, 14 ships 6½ knots, escort FOLKESTONE, estimated in 51° 40' N., 31° 30' W., at 0800/6, steering towards 53° 30' N., 25° 30' N., 25° W. Convoy W.S. 4 A, 16 ships 11 knots, escort CORNWALL, estimated in 46° 40' N., 27° 10' W., at 0800/6, steering towards 42° N., 23° W., (D.T.D. 0550/6 to REPULSE)

Arrange a search at dawn Thursday from Butt of Lewis as far to westwards as possible in a direction 300° (C. in C., H.F. 0620/6 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/Prime Minister.

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ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

Prime Minister has telephoned to say that as we consider it possible that the SCHEER, which is now attacking trade in the centre of the Atlantic may return to Brest, St. Nazaire or Le Verdun, it is essential to keep a close watch on those places from the earliest time at which she may arrive there and that arrangements must be made to bomb her intensively should she be located

We estimate that the earliest time at which SCHEER could arrive at above places is 1700 on 7th. (1st S.L. 0700/6 to Chief of Air Staff)

Orders to USK and TRIDENT (V.A.(S) 1021/6 see Submarines.

If pocket battleship appears near Nova Scotia or Newfoundland I intend that F.O.C 3 B.S. should take charge of Ocean Operations using ex-American Destroyers and such ships as you may be able to assist with. Request air co-operation. (C. in C., A. and W.I. 1021/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

Expect to arrive position A 037° 30' N., 020° 00' W., at 1200/7. Then intend to sweep to south west and endeavour to locate Sugar London and Sugar London Freddie convoys before dark. After assembly of the three convoys intend steering for position B by 050° 00' N., 023° 00' W., Request convoys be constructed to steer 350° on reaching position A. (RENOWN 1100/6)

C. in C., H.F's 0125/6. REPULSE, BONAVENTURE MATABELE, MASHONA, ELECTRA detached at 1100 Position 58° 18' N., 8° 36' W., course 248° speed 17 knots. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1101/6 to Admty.)

Escort for
REVENGE

Detail 3 Destroyers to relieve JACKAL, JUPITER, JAGUAR escorting REVENGE to Clyde at 0800/7 in position 53° 00' N., 05° 10' W
2. Destroyers detailed return Liverpool on conclusion of escort duty.
3. REVENGE is to amend R/V if necessary.
(C. in C., W.A. 1037/6 to Capt D. Liverpool

Enemy aircraft has reported position of forces with you at 1032/6. (D.D.I.C. 1118/6 to F.O.C., B.C.S., REPULSE)

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ADMIRAL SHEER
Contd.

ADMIRAL SCHEER may return to a French west coast port on or after tomorrow Thursday evening. Brest St. Nazaire or Gironde are likely ports. REPULSE and one cruiser are proceeding to last known position of raider. Battle cruiser force includes HOOD, AUSTRALIA from northward arriving vicinity of 057° N., 010° W., about 1500 today, thence 050° N., 013° W., thence covering approaches to Bay of Biscay ports. Battle fleet including NELSON, RODNEY are proceeding to cover Iceland Faroes passage. (V.A.S. 1106/6 to submarines on Patrol)

Cancel my 2032/5. H.X. 85 is to return to Sydney, Cape Breton. Ships which cannot be accomodated there should proceed to Halifax. (A.C.N.S. T. 1135/6 to RAJPUTANA)

Enemy aircraft has reported your position, course and speed at about 1100/6th Nov. (D.D.I.C. 1138/6 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarine O.23 proceed to 60° N., 3° 20' E and at 0700/7 patrol within 20 miles of 59° N., 3° 50' E., At 0700/7 submarine O. 22 to proceed to patrol Zone C. 1. about 18 miles off coast. (V.A.S. 1218/6)

Until further orders all independent sailings from U.K. and between U.K., North American Atlantic Ports, and Eastern Atlantic Ports north of and including Sierra Leone, are to be suspended. (A.C.N.S. T. 1220/6)

Cancel my 0940/3 and my 1614/4. CILICIA leave patrol a.m./9 for Gibraltar for water and some fuel if available. DERBYSHIRE and CAMITO leave patrol to R/V in 37° 30' N., 20° W., at 1900/7, thence towards Gibraltar with H.Q. 46 and S.L.53 until RENOWN is met, and thence with Convoy to Clyde. F.O.C.N.A. requested arrange A/S escort for CILICIA into Gibraltar if available. (F.O.C.N.F., 1330/6 to Western Patrol)

My 1011/6.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

My 1011/6 and your 1220/6. Have instructed Jamaica to suspend loading and sailing of Fruit Ships and report situation. Loss of cargo anticipated if delayed more than 3 days. (C.in C., A and W.I., 1401/6 to Admty.)

Re return of convoy H.X. 85 to St. Johns. Only room for 2 ships there at present. Intend send STANLEY to meet Convoy about 60 miles out, and that 15 ships go to Trinity Harbour with STANLEY and 15 ships to southward of Bell Island. My 1234/6 BUXTON has further defect and must remain in harbour. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, Newfoundland 1446/6 to F.O.C. 3rd B.S.)

Your 0700/6. We are taking all action possible to locate and bomb ADMIRAL SCHEER Coastal Command are arranging the necessary reconnaissance and have a striking force of three squadrons (of which one is a T.B. Squadron) standing by to attack. Bomber Command are also on top line to bomb the ship when located. Provided ADMIRAL SCHEER comes within our orbit I think you will find us prepared. (Chief of Air Staff, 1715/6. to 1st S.L.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN's 0120/6. Request early report of expected date when ROYAL SOVEREIGN will be fit for service. (A.C.N.S. F. 1721/6 to C. in C., S.A.)

C. in C., A & W.I., 1021/6 and my 1051/5 should sailing of these Destroyers be postponed for the present. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S 1739/6 to Adty.)

My 1510/6. Position of DUNOTTAR CASTLE nad SAGUENAY convoys are doubtful. A/C report places them 25 miles and 20 miles to westward respectively. (C. in C., W.A. 1740/6 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

/H.X. 84.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd

H.X. 84 scattered by raider in position 52 45 N., 32 13 W., at 1830/5 and should pass through position 56. 00' N., 18.00 W between 1500/7 and 1500/7 and 1500/8 thence direct to Clyde. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail HAVELOCK, FLEUR DE LYS, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE forthwith to round up convoy. F.O.I.C. Greenock to sail HESPERUS to R/V with HAVELOCK as arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool. Destroyers to proceed independently of corvettes. All escorts to be given names of ships in convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 2103/6 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

1. RODNEY is to proceed towards Halifax and will escort homeward bound convoys to United Kingdom meeting them in vicinity of 45° 20' N., 52° 00' W.,
2. She will not fuel until she returns to United Kingdom and subject to this should proceed westbound at best possible speed.
3. Further instructions follow.
(1st S.L. 2107/6 to C. in C., H.F.)

My C101/6. After passing through position 42° N., 23° W., (estimated at about 1600/7 convoy W.S. 4 A is to steer for position 35° N., 23° W., thence to Freetown as routed by C. in C., South Atlantic.
PRETORIA CASTLE is to join CORNWALL
The whole convoy is to remain together until arrival in position 35° N., 23° W., when ships of Convoy W.S. 4 C escorted by PRETORIA CASTLE are to part company and proceed independently, in accordance with my 1435/4 not to RENOWN. (D.O.D. F. 2210/6 to CORNWALL, PRETORIA CASTLE)

D/F fix at 2208/6 is about 54° 30' N., 34° W., Fix very reliable but general indication is that ADMIRAL SCHEER has moved to the Northward.(D.D.I.C. 2309/6)

Ships in O.B. 239, 240 and 241 bound for South Atlantic ports will leave convoys in 25° W and are to be routed East of the Azores. (D.T.D. 2348/6 to N.O.S.O. Liverpool, Clyde, Oban, Belfast)

CHITRAL
FRIDTJOF NANSEN

Your 1735/5. Sailed at 1035 G.M.T. for Jan Mayen Island Speed 13 knots. (N.O.I.C. Icelan 0948/6 to Adty.)

/FURIOUS.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

FURIOUS

Ship should arrive Bar Light Vessel not later than 1600/7 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1235/6 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 1326/5. Assume it is understood that FURIOUS has no facilities for hoisting Hurricanes with wings in position. Wings off O.K. (FURIOUS 1256/6 to Adty.)

My 2113/4 and 1644/5. Aircraft and personnel will be embarked at Birkenhead instead of Clyde. (D.N.A.D. 1257/6)

My 1256/6 Loading at Birkenhead will begin shortly after ship docks, aircraft arriving from Sealand with wings off. (D.N.A.D. 1303/6 to FURIOUS)

C. in C., H.F. 1119/5. Valve due arrive Liverpool 0630/7. (A.S.Devonport 1835/6 to Adty.)

Submarines

USK
TRIDENT

USK to patrol off Brest, TRIDENT south of Belle Isle to cover approach to St.Nazaire (V.A.S. 1021/6) USK position, proceeding to Plymouth (C. in C., W.A. 1120/6)

SEAWOLF

To be transferred from 3rd to 6th S/M Flotilla being temporarily attached to 5th S/M Flotilla. (V.A.S. 1153/6 to S. 3. S. 5, S.6.,)

Attack on Submarines by Surface Vessels

Request Admty. *1710/26/10 may be cancelled as from 2000/7/11. (V.A.S. 1217/6 to Admty.)
* Re surface vessels not to attack submarines unless identified as hostile.

0.22 }
0.23 }

See Operations (ADMIRAL SCHEER)

TRIDENT

My 1504/5 is cancelled by V.A.S. 1021/6 to TRIDENT. Alternative patrol postion for TRIDENT in the vicinity of 047° 10' N. 006° 32' W., is also cancelled. (Capt.(S) 2 1429/6 to TRIDENT and TUNA)

/TAKU.....

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Submarines-Contd.

TAKU	Reports at 0238/2/11 in position 46° 54' N., 03° 50' W., obtained 3 certain hits on large tanker steering 020° from 800 yard range. Eight minutes later nothing visible but pronounced smell of oil present. A/S patrol seen within 10 miles of Belle Island and Ile de Croix. (V.A.S. 1614/6 to Admty.)
SUNFISH	Escorted by THIRLMERE leaves 099° Muckle Flugga 7 miles at 1700/7/11 and proceeds to Rosyth. (A.C.O.S. 1616/6)
Greenock Area	Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1623/6 to Admty.)
Positions and Movements	0700/7. (V.A.S. 1647/6)
WILK	My 1011/3* To be transferred from 3rd to 9th submarine Flotilla (V.A.S. 1743/6) * WILK and other S/M's transferred to 6th Flotilla.
5th S/M Flotilla	1202/4* for 10/11 read 7/11 (V.A.S. 1746/6) * Date from which V.A.S assumes operational control of 5th S/M Flotilla.
SWORDFISH	Intend sailing at 0800/7 for patrol off Ushant. Proceeding submerged by day. Routed via 045° 51' N., 005° 31' W., (Capt. (S.) 5. 1755/6 to V.A.S., Admty C. in C., Portsmouth, Leaves Portsmouth at 0800/7 to patrol off Brest, keeping W of a line 180° from Ushant and N. of 045° N. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1853/6 to Admty.)
UNIQUE	In W.2 and S.3 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1853/6 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Air Reconnaissance	No air reconnaissance during the night S.A. 9. will be flown at 0800. (C. in C., Nore, 0639/6)
A/S Escort to 1st B.C. and REPULSE In search for ADMIRAL SCHEER	Cancel my 0342/6. F.O.C. 1st B.C. 2230/5 and 2235/5 and C. in C., H.F., 0125/6. Two Hudson aircraft proceeding to 08 30 position to give A/S escort to F.O.C. 1st B.C. Sqd. and REPULSE till relieved by Sunderland about 1000. (C. in C., Rosyth 0708/6 to F.O.C. 1 B.C.S., REPULSE)
S.16 B S.A. 2 S.A. 3	Cancelled this p.m. and S.A.I.E. this a.m. (C. in C., Rosyth 1332/6)
S.T.1. S.T.2.	Commence at 0815 and 1430/7 respectively (R.N.A.S. Stornoway 1355/6)
M/V Attacked	At 1310/6 Aircraft gunned and fired Torpedoes at one 10,000 ton M.V. in 48° 19' N., 4° 52' W., Torpedoes passed ½ length astern of ship. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 1500/6 to Admty.)
Special Searches	For 7/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1508/6, 2016/6 and 2302/6)
S. 16 B	My 1332. Now being flown. (C. in C., Rosyth 1626/6)
Attack on Enemy Aircraft by H.M.Ships in Harbour	Air Ministry 0930/6. Consider reasons in my 1925/16/10 for H.M.Ships opening fire on aircraft unless recognised as friendly still hold good, and that procedure proposed in a.m. 0009/25/10 is most necessary. Reasons. (C. in C., Rosyth 1717 and 2235/6 to Adty.)
Scapa	Admty. 1534/16/10 and Air Ministry 1905/19/10. Request consideration of return to Skitton of Flight of 232 Sqdn. mentioned in Air Ministry A.327/19/10 (A.C.H.S. H. 1850/6 to Air Ministry)

/Horns Reef.....

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Rosyth	Air Escorts for 7/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1920/6)
Horns Reef Offensive Patrol	As in my 0040/3/10, will be extended tomorrow into Skaggerak as far as 8° East if cloud cover permits. (C. in C., Rosyth 2240/6 to Adty.)
Convoy C.W. 16	Available aircraft of Nos 53 and 59 Squadrons to bomb coastal battery positions between Calais and Ambleteuse from 1930 to 2100 during passage of convoy C.W. 16 through Straits of Dover. (H.Q.C.C. 1140/6)
	Enemy torpedo aircraft may operate against Convoy C.W. 16 which will be in 50° 35' N 0° 40' W., at 0800/7. Carry out CH/G2/24/10 (Torpedo) on 7/11 and 8/11. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1637/6)
	At 1300 today two MAAS Class Destroyers and three Torpedo Boats were reported moving North from Calais. They may either enter a harbour on Dutch coast or else be returning to a German port. Despatch one aircraft 53 Squadron at First Light 7th November to look for these ships between Dunkirk and Texel providing cloud cover sufficient. Reports by W/T (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1740/6 to Detling)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy S.L.52. MALON — My position 54° 4' N. 16° 1' W. (S.L. Convoy 1022/6)

MALON. — MALON bombed in 054° 00' N. 015° 38' W. All hands rescued by VISCOUNT. May possibly remain aflost with valuable cargo of copper. Request instructions. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 1148/6).

MALON. — British, 7222 tons. Your 1145/6. VISCOUNT is to rejoin Convoy. Tugs are being sent to MALON. (C.in C. W.A. 1511/6, to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE)

Sailed tugs ENGLISHMAN and THAMES to assistance of MALON in position 54° 00' N. 15° 38' W. at 1146/6. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1557/6).

My 1545/6. H.M.S. MAN-O-WAR is to proceed to stand by MALON bombed and abandoned with valuable cargo in 054° 00' N. 015° 38' W. Tugs are being sent. (C.in C. W.A. 1553/6 to STELLA CAPELLA, etc).

Pembroke bombed. — Pembroke Dock bombed this morning, no damage to Admiralty Personnel or property, one unexploded bomb touching No. 30 tank at Llanion, all precautions being taken (N.O.I.C. Milford H., 1104/6)

My 1104/6 unexploded bomb on vicinity of oil tank has been removed. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1804/6).

TRANIO. — Harwich Departure Tug MURIA at 1405 to assistance of H.M. Trawler TRANIO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1417/6).

VANITY. — 1 Aircraft 27° 10' N. 2° 35' W. (VANITY 1435/6.)

My 1435 JU88. (VANITY 1453/6).

Faroes. — My 1324/6 (Sighting of unidentified a/c over Faroes) Aircraft identified as German twin engine monoplane. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1500/6).

VIMIERA. — Your 1658/5 (Torpedo attack on VIMIERA by enemy. a/c) Request you will indicate type of aircraft which made this attack.

/ SOUTHAMPTON ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

Southampton. 2 H.E. bombs one unexploded dropped by E/A 1500/6 30 feet from head of No.4 dry dock. No damage to ships or to dock so far ascertained. Dock unusable pending disposal of bomb which is in hand. Four civilians injured. Slight damage Pirelli's cable works by another H.E. but output not likely to be affected. (P.O.I.C. Southampton, 1650/6.)

OLGA S. (OLGA S.) British, 2252 tons. Position 55 58 N. 658 W. OLGA S. attacked by planes. (? 1708/6).

Convoy Agent. (F.N. even) 1 Enemy A/c shadowing Convoy Agent bearing 090° 20,000 feet. My position 52.11 N., 1.54 E. (WALLACE, 1750/6).

BLACKFLY. HELP, my position 230° Noss Head 10 miles. (BLACKFLY 1818/6)

Convoy W.N.31 GLAN MACKINLAY HARBOROUGH Help 'Rusty' (Odd No. WN Convoy) 58.37 N., 2.52 W. (HASTINGS, 1819/6)

Enemy A/C attacking with bombs. (HASTINGS 1820/6.)

Fighters left for "Rusty" (Odd No.WN Convoy). (Scapa W/T, 1824/6)

Tugs BUCCANEER and ABEILLE 21 are being sent to assist. (A.C.O.S. to HASTINGS, 1849/6)

Enemy Bombing, my position 58.37 N., 2.52 W. (HASTINGS, 1850/6).

2 ships hit and burning. (HASTINGS, 1856/6).

HARBOROUGH British 5415 tons. My position latitude Noss Head 9.1 miles S.S. HARBOROUGH on fire and abandoned after bomb attack sinking very slowly. Have on board 29 survivors. Salvage probabilities good. (GLEANER, 2032/6, to A.C.O.S., C.in C. Rosyth).

Tell tug to tow HARBOROUGH to Scapa and to report expected time of arrival Hoxa Gate. (A.C.O.S. 2341/6 to GLEANER)

/ GLAN MC.KINLEY
HARBOROUGH .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

CLAN MC.KINLAY[A] HARBOROUGH	Convoy W.N. 31 was attacked at 1810/6 in position 58° 35' N. 2° 53' W. by enemy aircraft. CLAN MC.KINLAY[A] 6365 tons hit and now presumed sunk. Thirteen Lascars from crew landed at Wick. HARBOROUGH 5415 tons hit and one fire now in tow of tugs BUCCANEER BANDIT and ABKILLE 21 proceeding to Scapa. Attack carried out by three aircraft. The enemy apparently approached at very low altitude as no R.D.F. indication was given. Fighter aircraft in the immediate vicinity saw outline of ships in convoy but no enemy aircraft. (A.C.O.S. 1031/7 to Admty.)
Unknown Ship.	55° 58' N. 06° 58' W. attacked by plane. (T.O.R. 1825/6).
Campbeltown Bombed.	Low level bombing and machine gun attack on Campbeltown carried out by 1 or 2 aircraft at 1830/6. 1 dead 2 seriously injured. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 2135/6).

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Dover

Routine sweeps to noon/6. Two mines exploded and 4 explosive cutters found 3-6 cables west of line joining Nos. 1 and 4 Buoys. (V.A.Dover 1211/6 to Admty.)

Milford Haven

Cancel my 1401/1. Port now open using original approach channel. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1220/6 to Admty.)

Minelaying

Propose to start A mark I minelaying operation with M.T.B's in near future. It is understood that proposal to mine channel on either side inner Ruytingen emanates from you. Request information as to whether this is still considered desirable and whether you have any other proposal. French and Belgian ports cannot be mined at present. (C. in C., Nore, 1314/6 to V.A.Dover)

Operation H.S. 45

Completed (TEVIOT BANK, 1503/6 to Admty.)

ELGIN

ELGIN detonated a mine probably acoustic ½ cable on her starboard beam 4½ cables, 120° from Sunk Light Vessel. No serious damage reported. In tow of GOSSAMER. Tug KENIA to assist. NIGER and SPEEDWELL standing by. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1559/6 to C. in C., Nore.)
One mine destroyed 51° 55' N., 01° 40.5' E by fleet sweepers and ELGIN damaged by acoustic mine 51° 50.5' N., 01° 35.5' E. No casualties and ELGIN in harbour. (F.O.I.C Harwich 1921/6 to C. in C., Nore)

Plymouth

Since my 1526/5 four mines exploded. One in air 0636° 5 cables east end breakwater. Three spontaneous no ships near. 0910 132° 7.2 cables breakwater fort. ("KANGO HAMMER" operating course 196° explosion abeam distant 14 cables.
1323 090° 80 yards east end breakwater.
1325 185° 1.9 miles breakwater light.
(C. in C., W.A. 1718/6 to Admty.)

/Falmouth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Falmouth	
JUNIPER JAGUAR	Mines suspected, do not enter port until signalled. Port closed owing to suspected mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0710/6) Red mine exploded, suspected accoustic 175° St. Anthony 5½ cables. Moored mine exploded in sweep 191½° St. Anthony 9 cables (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1827/6 to Admty.)
Firth of Forth	2 mines exploded today- one red 56° 01' 25" N., 03° 04' 12" W., and one by motor fishing boats 56° 12' N., 02° 41' 30" W., (approx) (C. in C., Rosyth 2200/6 to Admty)
Bristol Channel	Red mine exploded by sweep 250° distant 2.5 miles from Nash Point Lighthouse. (TRANSYLVANIA 2228/6 to Admty)
GIRL HELEN Sunk	Dan laying drifter GIRL HELEN exploded mine 036° 1600 yards from North Tyne Pier Light at 1026. Now sunk in position 017° 1750 yards North Tyne Pier Light. Casualties one missing, three injured. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1121/6) My 1121/6. Amend position of wreck of Drifter GIRL HELEN 00 10.75 cables 349°. from Tyne North Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1107/7)
SEVRA Sunk	H.M.T.SEVRA mined and sunk position 154° St. Anthony 5½ cables. No casulaties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1231/6)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Brest	3 destroyers at 0755/6 (St. Eval 1045/6) Convoy of 4 M/V's 3 miles North of Ile Vierge at 0801/6. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1245/6)
Calais	5 Vessels, probably destroyers or T.B's passed Calais eastwards at 1340 (V.A.Dover 1352/6 to Admty.) 2 MAAS class destroyers and 3 T.B's. The 2 destroyers are believed to have come from Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1547/6)
E-Boats	PEONY sailed in company with SALVIA reports when five miles North of Z at 1940/1 sighted proper three star recognition signal for British Submarines on surface bearing red 120° followed by proper two colour British Aircraft Recognition Signal immediately above. Enemy aircraft and probably E-Boats in vicinity T.O.O. 1631/4/11. (C. in C., Nore 1730/6 to Admty.)
Eastern Skagerrak Oslo Fiord Zone C.1.	Your 1817/4. Report on Coastal Traffic. Sank 2 M/V's (STURGEON 1811/6)
Obrestad	Sinking Ship observed off Obrestad. (TUGELA, Recd. 1528/6)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BUXTON	My 1234/6. Has doveloped further defect and must remain in harbour. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 1446/6 to F.O.C. 3rd B.S.)
ALFRED JONES	(British, 5013 tons) Arrived Clyde 29/10 with considerable damage forward. (C. in C W.A. 1644/6 to C. in C., S.A.)
M.G.B. 40	Details of damage. (Belfort 1645/5 to C. in C., W.A.)
ENCOUNTER UTMOST	FORESTER reports ENCOUNTER and UTMOST in collision at 1225/6 in 277° Spartel 137 miles. FORESTER escorting both ships to Gibraltar, E.T.A. 0800/7. ENCOUNTER has minor damage to stern. UTMOST casing damaged and pressure hull dented. Both require docking. No casualties reported. (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/6 to Admty.)
MELROSE ABBEY	My 1517/6. Ship out of sight. Have still not gained contact. (OTTAWA 1755/6 to C in C. W.A.) STELLA CAPELLA has been despatched to escort ship. (C. in C., W.A. 1953/6 to OTTAWA) *Ice U boat campaign.*
WIVERN	Serious damage to main turbine gear. Consider due to sabotage. (WIVERN 2322/6 to Adty.)
LEWANT	(Polish, 1942 tons) Received at 2140. LEWANT stranded on rock in Bangor Bay. send tugs. (Portpatrick Radio)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys. Situation at 2000/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1510/6).

H.X.85. Cancel my 2032/5. H.X. 85 to return to Sydney C.B. Ships which cannot be accommodated there should proceed to Halifax. (D.T.D. to RAJPUTANA, etc., 1135/6) BUXTON with H.X.85 (see America and West Indies).

O.G.46. Whale oil carrier HECTORIA. A/C trawlers ERIN and HAARLEM to be included in O.G.46 for Gibraltar. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/6)

S.C.9. MALLOW to join (C.in C. W.A. 1015/6). Your 1015/6. Position. Sent back ex French CAPO OLMO unescorted to Oban to meet S.C.9.

C.W.16. Passed Dover 2245. Enemy coastal batteries fired about 14 rounds, some fell inland. No damage reported. (V.A. Dover, 2302/6)

S.L.52. SALADIN and SHIKARI to join. Position. (C.in C. W.A. 1033/6).

H.X.84. Position, escort JERVIS BAY)
S.C.10. " " FOLKESTONE)
W.S.4A. " " CORNWALL)

(D.T.D. 0550/6, re C.in C. H.F. 0125/6)

S.L.53 To steer for 37.30 N., 20° 00' W., and thence towards Gibraltar. (D.T.D., 0010/6 to ARAWA).

S.L.53 Slow. To turn to course 080° until further orders. (D.T.D., 0019/6)

S.H.X.86 } Your 0057/6 and 0056/6. Holding until
S.C.11. } further orders. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 0308 Z/6).

O.B. 239, 240, 241. Ships in O.B.239, 240, 241 bound for South Atlantic ports will leave convoys in 25° W. and are to be routed East of the Azores. (D.T.D., 2348/6).

B.H.X.86. To return to Bermuda. (D.T.D. to MONTCLARE, 0053/6).

H.X.86. To return to Halifax. (D.T.D. to VOLTAIRE, 0056/6).

S.C.11. Not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D., 0057/6)

O.B.240. Not to sail until further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 0103/6)

/ H.G.46 / S.L.F. 53 } .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

H.G. 46 / H.L.F. 53 — Informing RENOWN of their positions and routes. (D.T.D. 0035/6).

H.X.84. — Ships in CORNISH CITY's Convoy attacked p.m./5 to steer for position 200 miles 185° from last position given in standard route. (C.in C. W.A., 2107/6, to C.B.M.S.1)

Independent Ships, Dark Hours. — My 1340/29 re date of arrival in U.K. of independently routed fast ships from abroad. Cancel words "before the date". Vessels telegrams regarding these ships should state date of arrival at Meridian of 10° West and not at destination. Ships concerned will now be allowed to enter Clyde Belfast and Liverpool during dark hours. 2115/6 for D.T.D. (983).

Independent Sailings Suspended. — Until further orders all independent sailings from U.K., and between U.K., North American Atlantic ports and Eastern Atlantic ports north of and including Sierra Leone are to be suspended. (D.T.D., 1220/6).

Rescue Ships. — Your 1228/5. Concur. (D.T.D., 1056/6, to N.C.S.O. Methil).

ADDA. — C.in C. W.A. 1305/4 para 3. FYTCHLEY and EXMOOR are now detailed for escort of s.s. ADDA. Request BULLDOG may be sailed independently for Skaale Fiord Faroes now. My 2322 not to C.in C. W.A. refers. (C.in C. H.F. 0059/6 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Operations Against Vichy French.

Repatriations. — French ships SOUTHLAND, SANFRANCISCO, WYOMING and OREGON are proceeding to U.K. from U.S.A., and passing through 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W. It is possible that these ships may endeavour to make for Casablanca or other French ports and if encountered off their route they are to be sent in. (F.O.C.N.A. 1231/6).

VICTORIA. — My 1055/28. Request reply concerning German guarantee and destination of VICTORIA. (Hd. of M., to N.A. Madrid, 1232/6)

CUBA. — Asking if any armed guard is on board. (C.in C. S.A. to DRAGON, MORETON BAY, 1643/6).
Your 1636/1 and subsequent signals. DRAGON, MORETON BAY and French ship CUBA expected arrive Freetown daylight 7/11. Request instructions for disposal of 1216 sailors on board CUBA. No accommodation

/ on ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CUBA. (contd.)

on shore at Sierra Leone at present. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1747 /6)

French Prisoners

My 1929/30. French N.A. states he has no official reply but that he has been informed there will be no reply as French Government will in no circumstances exchange French Emissaries. They will exchange all British F.A.A. and R.A.F. personnel captured.
I have urged him again re-open matter, but he has refused. Submit H.M. Ambassador tries it on Pietri, new French Ambassador expected shortly. (N.A. Madrid, 1641/6 to Admty.)

INDO CHINOIS Interception

My 2017/22/10 and your 1104/29/10, Gov. Gold Coast has replied to effect that repatriation through Gold Coast is not practicable. (Reasons)
Only alternative appears to be to send passengers by neutral ship to Port Bouet direct and this is considered much the best solution from all points. Following neutral ships capable of carrying these passengers will be passing Freetown southbound in the near future. Portuguese LOURENCO MARQUES, COLONIAL and CUBANGO, Spanish CABO BUENA ESPERANZA. Request arrangements be made for one to call at Freetown to take passengers (numbers).
C.in C. S.A. 1707/6 to Adty.)

North Atlantic.

Casablanca.

Your 1915/5, re agent leaving for Casablanca. Details of information required. (D.N.I., 1259/6 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon)

SHEFFIELD.

Arrived Gibraltar a.m./6 from Azores Patrol. (D.O.R. 7/11)

ENCOUNTER) OTHOST)

In collision 277° Spartel 137 miles at 1225/6. FORESTER escorting to Gibraltar. Both require docking. (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/6)

ARGUS.

S.O. Force H. 1146/5 and ARGUS 2031/5. Pilots not had any previous carrier experience. Air Staff consider moon-light take-off should not be attempted. (Air Ministry to Admty. 1920/6)

RENOWN.

RENOWN, FORESTER, ENCOUNTER, GALLANT left 0400/6 in accordance with Admty. 0018/6, (S.O.I., Gib., 0530/6).

/ Destroyers .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Destroyers. Your 1240/5. Regretted your request cannot be conceded. Hoped revised movements of ROYAL SOVEREIGN will simplify your destroyer problem. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 1624/6).

SAVOIE Your 0748/2. My information gives date of departure from Casablanca as. SAVOIE as 27/10. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty. 1056/6).

DESPATCH) Date of arrival at Gibraltar.
ARGUS) (DESPATCH, 1542/6)

Force H. ARK ROYAL, BERWICK, GLASGOW and destroyers, with PASTEUR, arrived Gibraltar p.m./6 from U.K.
Flag of V.A. Force H transferred to ARK ROYAL on arrival (D.O.R. 7/11)

Italian S/M's at Tangier. Admty. to N.A. Madrid 2250/5.
In conversations which I have held with "Governor" Tangier he has not contended that Italian submarines (a) and (b) have a right to stay in this port until they are in a position to navigate under water. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 1334/6 to Admty.)

My 1357/5. Chief of Naval Staff states second S/M damaged extent not yet known. Minister of Marine unwilling to express opinion on exact interpretation of what degree of seaworthiness necessary but apparently agrees privately with us. He refused to guarantee me news of time granted, as matters for Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom Ambassador now dealing.
First S/M apparently CALVI class or later. Second smaller.
(N.A. Madrid, 1927/6).

My telegram 675. Andre tells me that (?crew of) submarine B were hastily buying provisions in town this morning. Intention may be to slip out of Tangier during night of 6th - 7th. Submarine "A" has been seriously damaged and several metres of her plates have been removed for repair purposes. Her Captain has asked to be allowed large TITAN port crane.
(Consul Gen. Tangier, 2015/6 to F.O.)

My 2015/6 to D.N.I.
Have received further evidence submarine B will possibly leave

/ Tangier ...

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Tangier during tonight, time unknown. Consider probability is sufficiently strong to warrant especially sharp watch being kept by your patrol in Straits. Current belief is that she may make for Cadiz using dry dock but also said Ceuta. (Consul Gen. Tangier, 2245/6 to Admiral, Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

HERMES — Admty. 1815/4. HERMES to remain Simonstown for present and may be used to intercept and bring in ships mentioned in my 1805/6 and Admty. 1002/5 and 1156/4 (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2026 M/6)

Shipping Routes. — Your 1337/6, re ships routed independently for U.K. from South American ports. Reply, yes. (D.T.D. 2116/6, to C.in C. S.A.)

French Ships Madagascar. — Interception orders. (C.in C. S.A., 1805/6) See French Merchant Ships.

Troop Movement. — Your 1605/5 ATHLONE CASTLE is required back in U.K. urgently, but if used as proposed could not be available in time. Suggest alternatively that either STIRLING CASTLE or WARWICK CASTLE at present in W.S.4.A. be used. Agree that LLANDAFF CASTLE be ordered to return to Durban. (D.S.T. 2126/6, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Mediterranean.

Operation. — Your 1131/5. Concur that S.O. Force H decides date and conducts operation in Mediterranean. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. Med., 1055/6)

Your 1412/5. It is intended you should specify date and time of R.V. so that sailing date of M.T. ships from U.K. can be determined. (Provisional date). (D.O.D.(F) to S.O. Force H, 1656/6) Your 1656/6. Time proposed. (V.A. Force H, 2231/6).

/Italian Hydrophones. .....

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Italian Hydrophones.	C.in C. Med. 1741/6. Further interrogation of prisoner reveals object of Italian S/M GONDAR's mission was to lay hydrophones on submerged buoys 10 miles from harbour entrance of Alexandria with listening posts on Cyrenaica Coast. Information believed reliable. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 1251/6).
RORQUAL	On completion of 2nd operation ordered in my 1021/29, to establish patrol within 40 miles of Misurata. (Capt. S.1, 1427/6).
Fleet Positions.	Fleet will be operating in force in vicinity of Crete 7/11, Ionian Sea 8-9/11, south and west of Malta 10/11, and afterwards in Ionian Sea. (Capt. S.1, 1721/6, to S/M's on Patrol).
Air Reports.	M.A. M.A.F., M.E., 1201/6, 1203/6. No naval items.
Fulmers.	Asking when they leave Takoradi for Egypt. (S S.L. to N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 1903/6)
Crete.	Proposal of Metaxas to withdraw Greek troops from Crete. Greek Navy could convoy but British naval assistance would be appreciated. (Brit. Mil. Mission, Athens, to W.O., 1810/6) Situation Report to 0800/6. C.in C. worried at increased enemy air action yesterday. Kastoria bombed 11 times. (M.A. Athens, to W.O., 1825/6). Re employment of military forces. (Brit. Mil. Mission, to C.in C. M.E., 1825/6).
Small Craft, Greece.	Admty. 2029/1 Re provision of A/S, M/S and A/P craft. No hasty action should be taken except to provide small craft asked for in my 1209/5. Neither crews equipment or armament are yet available for large number of auxiliary vessels and it is essential that both hulls and machinery are in good condition. (C.in C. Med., 0945/6 to M.A. Athens)

/ Malta Air Report .....

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Malta Air Report.

Malta situation report from 1700/5 to 1700/6. All times G.M.T. 2106-2132, 1 raider S.79 approached island from North coast. 1 Hurricane up. Fighter engaged at 12000 ft. Bombs dropped on Senxlea point and Grand harbour. No military damage - no casualties. Enemy rear gunner silenced and probably aircraft damaged. 0552, 1 CR42 machine gunned Sunderland (230 Squadron) in Marsaxlokk Bay and damaged port main plane and petrol tanks. No fighters up. No casualties. 0645-1520 Sunderland 230 Squadron reconnaissance Ionian Sea area - Malta. Nil report. 1000-1415 Blenheim reconnaissance gulf and harbour of Taranto to report enemy shipping. 3 cruisers 10 miles west of Gallipoli (Gulf of Taranto) appeared to be exercising. 1 M/V 5-6 miles out - 2,000 tons steering north for Cesareo. 3 M/V's of 4,000, 3,000, 1,000 tons 5 miles - steering 045 degs. making for same place. 1 destroyer 10 miles from Taranto - course 210 degs. - speed 30 knots. 2 M.T.B's leaving Taranto - speed 30 knots. Taranto Outer harbour - 3 battleships - 1 cruiser - 6 destroyers. Inner harbour - 6 cruisers - large number of destroyers and flying boats. (R.A. R.A.F., Malta, 1720/6).

Informing Med. Fleet of air reconnaissance today. (V.A. Malta, 1755/6).

East Indies.

Raider Report.

Corrupt message received from Mombasa Radio at 2152Z/5, armed raider 2.26 N., 5.3 E., shelled (Colombo, 0211Z/6). Informing C.in C. S.A. and C.S.1, (D.D.I.C., 0652/6).

Air Squadrons.

A.402 6/11. From Brooke Popham. Your X.724 5/11. Please amplify proposals for stationing general reconnaissance squadrons in Indian Ocean especially suggested bases. Desirable I should know at once in order to settle possible question of land protection of such bases with India before I leave Delhi early on 9/11. (A.H.Q., India, 1230/6).

/ S/M Report. ....

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies. (Continued)

S/M Report. SSSS 3.13 S., 55.14 E., BARON HERRIES sighted S/M periscope 0(05 G.M.T. (Admiralty, Colombo, 09252/6, to Admty.)

Land Operations, "Canvas". My 1402/28/7. Discussion with forces Nairobi re plans for capture of a certain place and date. Code name for operation is "Canvas". Details of naval co-operation (C.in C. E.I., 1834 Z/6, to Admty.) See Operations Vol.

China.

Free French, Indo-China. My 1021/1. To co-ordinate activities of Free French movements in Far East, early decisions on following points required. (a) to (h). (C.in C. China, 0413 Z/6)

Gunboats. Admty. 1859/22. CRICKET departed Singapore 6/11. TARANTULA has defects (date ready) (C.in C. China, 0433 Z/6).

LIVATHO. Admty. 2005/28/10 and 1919/4/11. Consider advisable to permit Greek ship LIVATHO to continue trading between Singapore and Saigon. Request approval of Greek authorities. (C.in C. China 0441Z/6).

ILE DE FRANCE Repatriees Your 0851/31. Proposal to book for Lourenco Marques approved. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China, 1052/6).

Ammunition. My 1557/31/8. Intended to re-establish a Far Eastern Reserve of ammunition, approx. two-thirds at Trincomalee and one-third Singapore. Arrangements. (D.T.S.D. 1053/6).

Vichy French Ships. Admiral Terraux informs me that he has received permission from Vichy to send from Saigon two French ships to Hong Kong and one to Singapore. I have told him that I cannot sanction this until British ships are allowed to visit Saigon. (C.in C. China, 0453Z/6 to Admty.)

Japanese S/M. Your 1012/26 Re loss of Japanese Submarine I.67. In view of date of loss and pro-Axis declaration, no further expression of sympathy is considered necessary. (Hd. of M. 1148/6 to N.A. Tokyo).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S/M Report.
Panama.

My 0632/4. No further information but Colon reports Master of Dutch Ship MANTE claims nearly colliding with unidentified submarine on surface off Cape Mala 0300 R, 2/11. Submarine exhibited white light. No United States Submarine was in vicinity (C 2) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1140/6, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

BUXTON

Ready for sea 0001/7. As part of Convoy H.X.85 will be anchored off Bell Island. Proposal re trials (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1234/6).

CAMERONIAN
DUCHESS OF ATHOL

CAMERONIAN sailed from New York 0400 G.M.T., 5/11 prior to receipt of your 1220/6 (suspension of independent railings) DUCHESS OF ATHOL sailed from Montreal 3/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1728/6 to Admty.)

Your 1234/6. Trial approved. Convoy H.X. 85 now proceeding Sydney Cape Breton and Halifax. See also my 1726/6. (F.O. S D.S. 2136/6)

Shipping
Suspension.

My 1011/6 and your 1220/6, suspension of independent sailings between N. and E. Atlantic ports north of Sierra Leone. Move instructed Jamaica to suspend loading and sailing of fruit ships and report situation. Loss of cargo anticipated if sailing delayed more than 3 days. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1401/6 to Admty.)

U.S. Bases.

U.S. base, Bermuda, and Governor's telegram 272 of 4/11 to S. of S. for Colonies. Propose following 2 alternatives for getting over local and other objectives to permanent American flying boat base in Great Dump in addition to that in Castle Harbour. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/6).

Australia.

Officer for U.S.
Mission.

At request of Australian Minister Washington and with approval of Commonwealth Government Commander Burrel R.A.N. late Director of Plans is proceeding to Washington to be attached for a few weeks to Australian Legation Staff. (A.C.N.B., 1061Z/6, to Admty.)

New Zealand.

BATORY.

Arrived Wellington 2240/5. (S.O.I. Wellington, 0231Z/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TOLTECA
ORINOCO
IDARWALD
RHEIN
PHRYGIA

Following information received from Navy Department: Mexican M.V. TOLTECA (German owned) sailed a.m. 5/11 from Vera Cruz for Villa Hermose and Frontera. Following German Merchant Vessels at Bret are carrying out all preparations for departure by loading extra supplies and restricting crews to ships:- ORINOCO, IDARWALD, RHEIN, PHRYGIA. ORINOCO in particular has large quantities of foodstuff on board. (N.A. Washington, 1010/6).

SCHARNHORST

At Kobe. Intercepted Commerical message Shanghai to Hamburg suggests ship will sail in January (D.S. 429)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE TAMATAVE
LINOIS
DAINY
VILLE DE ROUEN
LE CONTE DE LISLE

French ship VILLE de TAMATAVE likely to leave Madagascar 6th November for Dakar. LINOIS and DAINY to follow almost immediately and VILLE DE ROUEN and LE CONTE de LISLE later. Ships expected to pass at least 200 miles from Cape of Good Hope. If met, ships are to be sent in. Pass to all ships likely to be in vicinity and those leaving Cape during period which make it possible for them to meet.
(C.in C. S.A., 1806/6 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS.

Survivors from the torpedoed ships H.M.S. LAURENTIC and H.M.S. PATROCLUS were landed at a northern port 6/11. They number 631 - 52 officers and 316 ratings from the LAURENTIC, and 33 officers and 230 ratings from the PATROCLUS. (The Times 7/11).

False report.

Suspect ship torpedoed in position 055°, 32' N. 008° 28' W. BEAGLE in vicinity, request air co-operation, request planes forecast number of ships in portion bound for British West Coast ports who are now unescorted.
(ACTIVE, 0630/6, to C.in C. W.A.)

My 0630. Irish Sea Ships all present. Commodore reports there should be 14 Ships for West Coast Ports.
(ACTIVE, 0850/6).

My 0630. Plane reports all ships present. BEAGLE should rejoin convoy.
(ACTIVE 1005/6)

MELROSE ABBEY

British 1908 tons. SSSS, position 51 40 N. 17 08 W.
(Valentia Radio, 0728/6)

Intercept, 51° 12' N., 17° 08' W. MELROSE ABBEY chased by submarine.
(Lands End Radio, 0742/6).

MELROSE ABBEY reported being chased by S/M in position 051° 12' N. 017° 08' W. at 0642/6. (C.in C. W.A. 0645/6 amended 0937/6).

SSSS 51° 05' N., 17° 32' W., MELROSE ABBEY, submarine appeared.
(Lands End Radio, 1116/6).

My 0845. MELROSE ABBEY reports submarine appeared against position 051° 05' N. 017° 32' W. at 1216.
(C.in C. W.A. 1231/6 to OTTAWA, HARVESTER).

Following in code from Landsend at 1315 (no indication of originator. Still being chased by submarine, have GARTBRATTAN crew aboard and damaged badly forward myself require assistance immediately position 51° 00' N., 17° 47' W. 1155/6.
(C.in C. W.A., 1327/6 to Admty.)
MELROSE ABBEY and GARTBRATTAN were in collision at 2113/5 about 360' W.S.W. of Slyne Head. (D.O.R. 6/11)
My 1231.....

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Continued)

Hunting submarine seen on surface in position 060° 54' N. 017° 37' W. no contact yet H.M.S. HARVESTER in company, MELROSE ABBEY in sight. Oil fuel remaining 38% (OTTAWA, 1517/6).

WELLAND is to escort convoy to Oban and await orders. STELLA CAPELLA and MAN-O-WAR proceed forthwith to assistance of MELROSE ABBEY in position 051° 05' N. 017° 32' W. at 1217/6.
(C.in C. W.A. 1545/6).

CLAN MACKINLAY — British, 6365 tons. Have survivors of CLAN MACKINLAY on board. Rejoining convoy. (BLACKFLY 2115/6 to C.in C. Rosyth)

Analysis. — To enable a full analysis of all U-Boat attacks on Convoys to be completed, it is requested that all escort vessels in company with Convoys attacked may be ordered to forward a Track Chart, if available, of their movements from the time of the initial attack until completion of the subsequent search. (D. A/S.W. 1067/6)

Submarines Reported.

1409/5. — Local fishermen report (C.2) sighted submarine nationality unknown on surface about 1300 G.M.T. 5/11, 3 miles South Bugio (Desertas) proceeding East. (Consul, Funchal, 1012/6)
Informing S. and A., North Atlantic Stn., (F.O.C.N.A. 1413/6).

2010. — 56° N., 9.15 W., confirmed at 2010/6. (D.D.I.C. 2068/6)

2020. 2036. — By D/F at (a) 2020/6 and (b) 2036/6 Positions of two unknown units probable U-boats homeward bound to Lorient were approximately (a) 90 miles W. of Fastnet and (b) in about 50 degs 30' N. 10 degs.W. respectively. Both fixes unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 2140/6)

0106. — 56° N., 9° to 13° W., position indefinite (D.S. 428)

0319. — 58° to 59° N., 19° to 21° W., position indefinite (D.S. 428).

0626. — 51.40 N., 17.8 W. (MELROSE ABBEY chased) (D.S. 428)

/ 1519-1915) .....

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1519-1915 — 58° N. - 61° N., 17° - 23° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 428)

2209. — About 49.30 N., 8° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 429)

East Indies.

0925 Z. — 3.13 S., 55.14 E. (Colombo 0925 Z/6). See FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Panama. — S.O.I. Kingston 1140/6. See FOREIGN STATIONS.

Estimated U/B dispositions. — Italian - 1 may still be in Azores Area.
German - 1 was in 46° 54' N. 20° 09' W. at 0940/5.
1 was in 51° 40' N. 17° 08' W. at 0826/6.
1 was in about 54° 50' N. 12° 20'W. at 2027/5.
1 may be about 25 miles N. of Bloody Foreland.
1 was in area 56° N. between 9° and 13° W. at 0106/6.
1 was in area 58° to 60° N. 19° to 21° at 0319/6.
(D.D.I.C. 1309/6)

Reports, Cloud. — Any ship making a submarine distress message in Area one should whenever possible add the visibility and height of cloud base for the benefit of aircraft which may be sent out.
(Example) Message DM was not made by W/T.
(D.S.D. 1555/6 to C.B.M.S.)

Submarines Attacked.

1840. — Attacking firm contact in 50.57 N., 17.22 W. since 1840. Still in contact. (OTTAWA, [illegible]041/6).

/ 0850 ....

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (Continued)

0850. By A/S.T. FANDANGO 54.51 N., 5.37 W., with d/c's (B.4) (D.S. 429)

By CLYDE 0800/17/10, about 540' W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland, attacked with 3 torpedoes, no explosions heard, A/S contact lost shortly afterwards. Again at 1441/18, on same patrol, sighted conning tower of U-boat breaking surface, but lost contact before attack could be carried out. (D.O.R. 7/11)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Northern Patrol.

Until suitable replacements for A.M.C. or additional trawlers, are available I intend to employ remaining A.M.Cs on Northern Patrol only, proceeding to and from patrol via Minches if unescorted.

Ocean boarding vessels will be sailed to and from western patrol in convoy - those burning oil fuel replenishing at Gibraltar between alternate patrols.

Further proposals are being forwarded by letter.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1142/7 to Adty).

A.P. Trawlers for Nore Command.

To Guard Channels against intensive E/Boat activities in Harwich Areas, 3 more A.P.Trawlers are required to replace those sunk by enemy action since August.
(C.in C. Nore 1204/7 to Adty). Request you distribute A.P.Trawlers as requisite within your Command, as no more are available from elsewhere.
(A.C.N.S.H 1832/7 to C.in C. Nore).

Converted Fishing Vessels.

Owing to enemy mining, fishing vessels with diesel motors that are being converted to relieve A/P Yachts are not to be manned and are not to leave their conversion ports until further orders.
(D.M.S.1339/7).

A/S Patrol in Sound of Mull.

Urgent representation having been made by N.O. i/c Oban that by night owing to temporary concentration of large numbers of merchant ships off Oban, Northern Approach via Sound Mull should be guarded, A/S patrol drawn from working-u vessels has been instituted.
(Western Isles 1524/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET

7.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

RIVERN	RIVERN reports damage to her engines; which she believed to have been caused by sabotage.
A.M.C's in Northern Patrol	Until suitable replacements for A.M.C's or additional trawlers are available F.O.C.N.P. intends to employ the remaining A.M.C's on Northern Patrol only.
Town Class Destroyers	GEORGETOWN and CAMERON arrived at Belfast this morning from Canada.
Operation "White"	ARGUS, DESPATCH and 3 destroyers sailed from the Clyde this morning.
	FURIOUS and 3 destroyers arrived at Liverpool from Scapa this afternoon.
Channel Convoys	The 8 day cycle for Channel Convoys is not being maintained, principally on account of delay in loading and unloading of ships. Other factors tending to extend the cycle are delays due to weather and the limited number of escort vessels available.
Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER	Independent sailings from U.K. and between U.K; North American Atlantic ports and Eastern Atlantic ports north of and including Sierra Leone were resumed today.
	A.M.C's in Northern Patrol were this evening ordered to be redisposed to be under cover of forces with C. in C., H.F. or be otherwise given security.
	AUSTRALIA is remaining in the Clyde at 2 hours notice for the present.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

Special Patrols were flown throughout daylight today North and West of the Faroes to 21° W. A cross over patrol 300 miles S.W. of Lands End was flown. Battles from Iceland covered and area to northward and westward of Iceland.

A sweep into the Skagerrak and thence to Horns Reef was carried out this morning. Nothing of importance was sighted.

Attack on Calais

Coastal Command aircraft last night bombed gun emplacements near Calais and the docks at Calais.

Wreckage

An Anson on A/S patrol observed an explosion in position 170° Harwich 10 miles at 1634 today. Wreckage of ship, two rafts, and one injured survivor were sighted. As the aircraft's signal to a naval unit was unsuccessful, a message was sent to base.

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on Convoy F.S.28

F.S. 28 was attacked this morning in the Thames Estuary. Fighters shot down 4 (including one dive bomber) and 4 further probable enemy planes. The following casualties occurred:-

EGRET
EGRET slightly damaged by splinters.

SS ASTROLOGER
SS ASTROLOGER (1673 tons) beached

SS DAGO II
SS DAGO II (1993 tons) Damaged Beached at the Nore.

SS DRACO
SS DRACO reported "in tow of another ship of convoy".

SS OXFORD

SS OXFORD (1893 tons) Bombed at 1221 16' E.N.E. Harwich. Fate unknown.

SS MELROSE ABBEY

(In collision with GARTERATTAN 5/11) was bombed about 130 miles S.W. of Ireland this morning. Result not known.

SS HARBOROUGH

(Bombed 6/11) Arrived at Scapa today in tow.

/Attack on.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Attack on Convoy F.N.28

Convoy F.N. 28 escorted by WALLACE and WESTMINSTER was bombed this morning 15 miles N.N.E. of Cromer, but no ships were damaged, though trawler GREEN FLY had 2 casualties and slight damage from the fire of our own ships.

Forces

There have been several reports recently of unidentified aircraft flying over Sydero. Today one was definitely identified as enemy

Mining

SS HERLAND Sunk

SS HERLAND (2645 tons) of Convoy F.S. 28 (see Enemy Air Activity) was mined and sunk in the Thames Estuary (Daily Operations Report)

POULMIC Sunk

POULMIC (Free French Mine-watching Vessel) was mined and sunk off Plymouth breakwater this evening.

REED Sunk

H.M. Drifter REED was mined and sunk off the Thames Estuary this afternoon ~~(Daily Operations Report)~~

WILLIAM WESNEY Sunk

M/STrawler WILLIAM WESNEY was mined and sunk off Orfordness this morning.

Enemy Minelaying

Enemy aircraft minelaying probably took place last night off East Anglia and in the Thames Estuary.

Mining of Kiel Canal

The Air Ministry state that the successful mining of the Kiel Canal may be accepted. Reports are to the effect that owing to ships having been sunk in the Canal navigation is complicated and slow.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

After attack by gunfire from MILFORD and A/S bomb from DEVONSHIRE's Walrus, French submarine PONCELET surfaced and surrendered and then scuttled herself this evng on the west edge of the Gulf of Guinea. It appears from PONCELET's log that she fired two torpedoes, apparently at MILFORD who felt a shock; the second torpedo stuck in the tube.

MORETON BAY and DRAGON arrived at Freetown today with CUBA.

Mediterranean

Operation "Coat"

Force H (ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and destroyers) in company with Force F (BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, GALLANT, to reinforce the Medtn. Fleet) left Gibraltar today for the central Mediterranean.

RAF Attack Valona

R.A.F. machines working from Eleusis bombed Valona today and destroyed one and probably damaged other Italian aircraft. One ship in harbour was hit, another bomb falling very close.

Australia

SS CAMBRIDGE (10846 tons) was sunk by an explosion, probably a mine, 6 miles East of Wilson's Promontory, S.E. Australia, this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. At 1130/7. (D.C.1205/7).

KENYA. To be sailed for Plymouth making best use of dark hours.
(A.C.N.S. 0058/7 to C.in C. W.A.)
Sail to arrive Hartland Point dawn 9/11
(C.in C. W.A. 0313/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Intend sailing KENYA 1600/8/11. Speed 22 knots. Expected time of arrival Plymouth 1500/9. Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1455/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

Dover. Patrols for night 7/8. (V.A. Dover, 1243/7).

Ex American Destroyers. Your 0836/7. Request you sail GEORGETOWN and CAMERON for Plymouth on 9/11 to pass Hartland Point at 0730/10.

Following are approximate dates of arrival at Belfast of other ex-American destroyers 9/11 - LEWIS LINCOLN LUDLOW.
10/11 - LEEDS MONTGOMERY STANLEY CHURCHILL SHERWOOD. Request you will sail these to Plymouth after two nights in harbour. Inform me if berthing or fuelling difficulties necessitate their being diverted elsewhere.
(C.in C. W.A. 1322/7 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Operations.
My 0034/7 German unit made further transmission on same frequency at 0045/7 from approx. same position.
(D.D.I.C. 0151/7 to Ships and Authorities in Areas A. and B.)

My position course and speed are 052° 47'N., 013° 30'W., 240°16 knots. Shadower in sight for 20 minutes. Intend to operate near 048° N., 015° W during daylight 8/11 and then return to Scapa.
(F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.1131/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

NELSON and SOUTHAMPTON spread 10 miles apart are patrolling with four destroyers about a datum line drawn 135° and 315 through position 063° 30' N., 012° 25'W., at 0530 on course 045° and at 1000 on a course 225 . Speed 12 knots north east 16 knots southwest.

DOUGLAS VIMY and BULLDOG after refuelling at Skaale Fjord Faroes have instructions to rendezvous with me in 063° 15'N., 013° 00'W., at 1200/9.

RODNEY was detached at 2320/6 in position 060° 47' N., 009° 46'W., to proceed in accordance with Adty. 2107/6.

* Suggest re-opening Iceland D/F Station at once. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C.
(C.in C. H.F. 1309/7).

Your position was reported to the enemy at 1140.
(D.D.I.C. 1214/7 to V.A. 1 B.C.S.)

CORNWALL W S 4 A from northwards and PRETORIA CASTLE from southwards are steering for 042° 00'N., 023° 00'W due P.M/7.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1320/7 to SALOPIAN, CILICIA).

Shipping.

Cancel my 1220/6. Sailings may be resumed.
(D.T.D. 1221/7 to A.I.G., C.in C. America and West Indies., C.in C. South Atlantic., F.O.C. North Atlantic, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

You may expect three Hudson Aircraft at about 1600/7.
(C.in C. W.A. 1330/7 to V.A. 1 B.C.S.)

Town Destroyers.

SHERWOOD arrived here 1100 G.M.T. today north defective evaporators. Your 1739/ only effective destroyer STANLEY now at one hours notice.
(N.O.I.C. St.Johns, N.F. 1414/7 to B.S.3)

RODNEY.

My 2309/6. Route should be adjusted at your discretion to provide chance of intercepting raider.
(V.C.N.S. 1705/7 to RODNEY).

AUSTRALIA.

Your 1245/6 and my 1107/6 (re repair by ships staff). Ship will be at four hours notice for steam for full power from 2300/7. (AUSTRALIA 1905/7).

MOST SECRET.
MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

REVENGE. You will be required to sail on 12/11 to cover outward bound convoys thence proceeding to Halifax. You are to obtain from F.O.I.C. Greenock the routes of O.B.239, O.B.240 and O.B.241. (C.in C. W.A. 2031/7 to REVENGE).

CHITRAL
A.M.Cs. CHITRAL should be withdrawn if necessary to harbour as she is exposed to attack should Raider return North of Iceland. Remainder of A.M.Cs on NORTHERN PATROL should be redisposed to be under cover of forces with C.in C. H.F. or otherwise given security.
(V.C.N.S. 2044/7 to V.A.N.P).

For ships in CORNISH CITY'S Convoy attacked p/m/6. Steer for position 200 miles 185° from last position given in standard route.
(C.in C. W.A. 2107/6).

AUSTRALIA. Your 1905/7. AUSTRALIA is to remain at the Clyde at 2 hours notice for the present. (Adty 2215/7 to AUSTRALIA).

FURIOUS. My 1257/6. (Embarkation of A/C and Personnel) For Birkenhead read Liverpool. (D.N.A.D. 1043/7 and 1044/7 to FURIOUS).

Channel Convoy shelled. FERNIE reports about 8 salvoes fell near Convoy off Dover between 2109 and 2225/6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1857/7 to Adty).

JACKAL.)
JUPITER.) 3 Destroyers may have left Brest. Proceed with despatch towards Roches Douvres and thence sweep Westward along French Coast. Return Plymouth at 0930/8.
JAGUAR .) (C.in C. W.A. 1950/7 to JACKAL.)

Iceland. CHITRAL proceed to Reykjavik forthwith. (F.O.C.N.P. 2144/7 to Northern Patrol.)

STURGEON. On 3/11 in 59° 1'N., 10° 20'E. sank one 2000 ton supply ship. on 6/11 in 58 o 34'N., 5o 38'E. sank one 1200 tons supply ship. (V.A.S. 1158/7 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

STURGEON. E.T.A. 1230 and enter Wallis Channel 0530/8. (STURGEON 0111/7 to C.in C. Rosyth).

TIGRIS. Starboard 4 pistons and breech-end damaged. Cannot repair at sea. Propose CUTTY SARK escort me Milford Haven arriving 1230. (TIGRIS 0756/7 to Capt: S.2) Approved. (Capt: S.2 0943/7 to TIGRIS).

TRIUMPH. Route from Bishop Rock to patrol near 47° 30'N., 8° W and thence as previously ordered. (V.A.S.1303/7 to TRIUMPH).

H.43. Sails Plymouth 1630/7 for Holyhead. (C.in C. W.A. 1627/7 to Adty).

H.28. Adty 1842/5. Request H.28 may work for Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 1639/7 to V.A.S.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/8. (V.A.S.1646/7).

British Air Activity.

SA.IA. Is being flown as early as possible today instead of SA.IE. (C.in C. Rosyth 0842/7 to Adty).

SA.9. No Air R/C during the night. SA.9 will be flown at 0830. (C.in C. Nore 0629/7 to V.A. Dover).

Lorient. Available A/C of 53, 59, 22, and 812 squadrons to destroy U/Boats and Harbour facilities at Lorient during night 7/8. (H.Q.C.C. 1120/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Belfast.

Reference your X.626 of 4/11 proposing temporary additional restrictions for Belfast area. This Command has no objection provided adequate warning is given before conditions take effect and that these are accepted by all concerned as temporary. Request opportunity to consider proposed boundary.
(H.Q.F.C. 1640/7 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
A.[illegible]NT.
(F.N.28).

Help. Position 53° 14'N., 1° 8'E. (WESTMINSTER 0755/7).
Fighters being sent. (C.in C. Nore 0811/7 to WALLACE) A/C bombing in 53° 5'N., 1° 31'E. (WALLACE 0820/7) Several delayed action bombs dropped. No hits. One killed, one wounded, and slight damage in Trawler GREEN FLY by own fire. (WESTMINSTER 0945/7 to C.IN C. Rosyth).

VIMIERA.

Your 1548/6. An H.E.115.
(VIMIERA 0927/7 to Adty).

MELROSE ABBEY.

(British, 1908 Tons) A/C attack in 51° 47' N., 14° 3'W. (Portishead Radio 1119/7) Still attacked (Valentia radio 1136/7).

Convoy.
F.S.25.
ASTROLOGER.
(British, 1673 Tons)
DAGO II.
(British, 1993 Tons)

One A/C, 2 bombs. No hits. (WINCHESTER 1100/7). 3 A/C. 12 bombs. No hits. One A/C still shadowing. (WINCHESTER 1155/7). Fighters have been sent (Nore W/T. 1243/7). Many Bombs dropped. One ship sunk. ASTROLOGER hit forward and is beaching herself in 51° 32'N., 1° 6'E. (EGRET 1250/7) DAGO II disabled off East Barrow Light Vessel. Require tug immediately. (Recd. 1151 G.M.T. North Foreland Radio 1303/7 to C.in C. Nore). 2 tugs and medical assistance being sent. (C.in C. Nore 1329/7 to EGRET). My 1250. No ships sunk. DRAGO in two of another ship of Convoy.

/ASTROLOGER.....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy (Contd).
F.S.25.
ASTROLOGER.
(British 1673 Tons)
DAGO II.
(British 1903 Tons)

ASTROLOGER beached 70° West of Barrow Beacon 5 cables. EGRET damaged above water and 2 fuel tanks holed, 5 severe casualties and several minor cases. E.T.A.Sheerness 1515. (EGRET 1354/7 to Adty). Am standing by ASTROLOGER in distress near Knob Light Vessel (ST.MELLONS 1831/7 to C.I.C. Harwich). DAGO II beached at Nore. No casualties. Hoped to salve (C.in C. Nore 0041/8 to Adty).

OXFORD.

(British, 1893 Tons). In 52° 2'N., 1° 42'E. Off Shipwash. Bombed. (North Foreland Radio 1221/7. No report of arrival in Thames. (C.in C. Nore 0041/8 to Adty).

CASPIAN.

Your 1703/5. Early full report of air attack at 1030/5 requested. (D.D.I.C.1253/7).

Convoy.

FERNIE reports at 0609/7 three Bombs dropped near ships in Convoy 8 miles S.W. of Beachy Head. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1857/7 to Adty).

Mining.

Plymouth.

Port is closed owing to mines. (C.in C. W.A. 0729/7).
Port is open. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/7).
Port is closed. (C.in C. W.A. 1850/7).

WILLIAM WESNEY.
(M/S Trawler).

Mined and sunk 6 cables 322° from South Shipwash Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1035/7 to Admiralty).
Mined and sunk 0858/7, 51° 53' 48" N, 1° 35' 36" E. 4 ratings missing, 1 rating killed. Details. SHELDRAKE, passing at time. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1402/7 to C.in C. Nore).

Explosions.

Explosion seen and heard by A/S Trawler close to ship in position 5 cables 035° from sunk Lt.Vessel at 0505/7.
Heavy explosion reported at 0938½ mile S.E. N.E. Swin Lt.Vessel, no ships in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1137/7 to Admiralty.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Falmouth.

Port is open entrance by Q.Z.S.180. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1208/7). Port is closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2036/7).

WILLIAM VAN DE ZAAN.

Route from Londonderry.

(1) 55° 38'N., 07° 00'W.
(2) 55° 38'N., 08° 00'W.
(3) 54° 31'N., 14° 00'W.
(4) 51° 00'N., 20° 00'W.

thence to Ponta Delgarda Azores. (C.in C. W.A. 1410/7).

Ruytingen.

Your 1314/6. Proposal to mine Channel on either side of Inner Ruytingen did not emanate from me. There is no recent information that these channels are in use or buoyed and it has consequently been thought that vessels use the inshore channels. Proposed positions for minefields were contained in my No. A 5/1462/40 of 9th October, 1940. (V.A.Dover, 1438/7 to C.in C. Nore).

Dover.

Routine sweep to noon/7/11. Details. (V.A. Dover 1514/7).

TEMPLE/MOAT. (4427 Tons).

Reports enemy aircraft dropped round black object probably a mine 5 cables 225° from buoy at 0745/7. No parachute and no explosion. (WALLACE 1530/7 to C.in C. Nore).

E.S.46.

Initial position 56° 01'N., 1° 12'W. Direction 328° Length 9 miles. Minelayers TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER escorted by two destroyers. Details (D.D.O.D.(M) 1601/7).

POULMIC. (Free French).

Mined and sunk, probably accoustic at 1819/7, approximate position 200° breakwater light 11 cables. 7 saved including C.O. 10 believed missing. (C.in C. W.A. 0218/8 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool. — Cancel my 0950/25/10.(Re anchorage within 5 miles of Bar Light Vessel.) Whole area now considered clear. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1900/7 to Admiralty).

Mine at Bull Point. — My 1946/2 para.2. Mine was magnetic. As recovery impossible has been destroyed. (C.in C. W.A. 1948/7 to Admiralty).

Milford Haven. — Port is closed owing to aircraft minelaying. (F.O.I.C. 2304/7 to Admiralty.)

Sheerness. — Mine detonated at 2145/7, 145° North East Spit buoy 5 cables well abaft sweep. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 2320/7 to C.in C. Nore).

M.T.B.68. — About 1800/7 exploded 2 mines, believed acoustic, ½ mile N.W. of West Rocks Buoy. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2357/7 to C.in C. Nore).

REED. — Drifter REED blown up by mine in approximately 51° 46' N., 1° 14.5'E at 1630 today sole survivor Lieut. Empson R.N.V.R. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2301/7).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Unit. — Probably Destroyer or larger to the E. of Fair Island at 2357/6. D/F fix. (D.D.I.C. 0034/7).

Brest. — At 0810/7, 4 Destroyers only seen. Visibility very bad. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0950/7 to Adty) R/C at 1535/7. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2045/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

M/V's. — On Dutch and Danish Coasts at 0800/7. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1145/7 to H.Q.C.C.) 13 M/V's at 0818/7 in 53° 23'N., 5° E, steering N.Ely at 6 knots. A/C report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.1155/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Skagerrak. Oslo Fiord.	Report on Shipping and Convoys and A/S Patrols by STURGEON. (V.A.S.1157/7 to Adty).
Channel.	At 1210, 3 enemy M/V's with one light Naval craft 30 miles south of Needles. Medium speed. Course 310°. (V.A.S.1354/7 to S/M's Area B).
German Main Units.	Last Known positions. (Adty 1742/7 to A.I.G.)

MOST SECRET.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

GREEN FLY. (Trawler) one killed, one wounded, and slight damage by gunfire from WESTMINSTER during Air Attack on convoy AGENT. (See Enemy Air Activity) (WESTMINSTER 0945/7 to C.in C. Rosyth)

TIGRIS. Starboard 4 Pistons and breech-end badly damaged. Cannot repair at sea. Propose arrive Milford Haven 1230. Time required in harbour 14 hours. (TIGRIS 0756/7 to Capt: S.2).

MANCHESTER. 17 hours notice for sea can be accepted during fitting of Type 286.M. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1250/7 to C.S.18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
FN26.

My 1710/6. F.N. Convoy 28 delayed by weather. Position Outer Dowsing course and speed 315° 5 knots. (WESTMINSTER 1045/7).

WN.31.
WN.32.

As W.N.32 will pass through the exact position in which W.N.31 was attacked at dusk yesterday, propose they should be ordered to steer to the northward on passing Duncansby Head turning to the southward at dusk.
(A.C.O.S. 1354/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

W.N. and E.N.

W.A.C.I's Section A. As I presume that you assume responsibility for W.N. and E.N. convoys while passing through your command I suggest that you re-route them as necessary for this purpose.
(C.in C. W.A. 2029/7 to A.C.O.S. C.in C. Rosyth).

O.B.239.
O.B.240-241.
H.X.84.

Time of sailing Oban. (C.in C. W.A. 1231/7 1324/7). Your 1231/7. Suggest sailing O.B.239 from Oban at dawn 0800 to avoid use of lights in blackout. (N.C.S.O. Oban to C.in C.W.A. (1930/7).

Times of sailing Bar L.V. (C.in C. W.A. 1231/7 1324/7, N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1331/7, 1425/7).
ABERDEEN to sail with O.B.240 leaving convoy in 20° W. and proceeding to Sydney C.B. (C.in C. W.A.1500/7).
D.T.D. 2140/7.

To steer for position 200 miles 185° from last position given in standard route. (C.in C. W.A. 2107/6). Your 2107/6. As Master unlikely to understand term "standard route" suggest signal be amended to read "last position given in envelope "C". (N.O.I.C. Halifax to C.in C. W.A. 0941/7). Add to my 2107/6 "now". (C.in C. W.A. 1235/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.G. 45. Your 0819/5. Commodore was not at R.V. has not yet been sighted. Have sighted 5 ships of convoy still widely scattered. Expected position etc. at noon/8. (SALOPIAN to C.in C. W.A., 1526/7).

H.G. 46. Position at 2000/6. Intend returning to Plymouth to refuel. (Capt. D.3, 0101/7)

H.X.85, H.X.86, H.X.87 S.C.11. Directions for. RODNEY can arrive about 12/11 and will act as ocean escort. Route. (D.T.D., 1237/7 to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. etc.) My 1237/7. B.H.X.86, H.X.87 and S.H.X.87 not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D. 1348/7).

S.C.9. List. (C.in C. W.A. 2135/7 to Admty.)

Channel Convoys, Delays. Admty. 2305/6. Reason for channel convoys not maintaining 8-day cycle is delay in loading and unloading. Recommendations (C.in C. Nore, 2148/7)

Faroes. Admty. 1220/6. Asking if Faroes regarded as U.K. port, and what action intended for Finnish ships routed via Faroes and intercepted there.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1201/7 to F.O.C.O.S.)

ADDA. Request you inform master "ADDA" of contents of N.O.I.C., Faroes signal 1549/2 Re: Transfer military in Skaale Fiord. (D.S.T., 2233/7 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

MOST SECRET.

7.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

PONCELET. SURRENDERED. MILFORD is proceeding to attack French S/M on surface in 00.20' S., 08.50' E. (F.O. 1 C.S. to Admty. 1640 A/7). My 1640. After attack by gunfire from MILFORD and A/S bomb from DEVONSHIRE's Walrus, French S/M PONCELET surfaced, surrendered and then scuttled herself. Survivors in MILFORD and DELHI. (F.O. 1 C.S., 1900/7).

French Ships. One Vichy French destroyer and French ship CARIBARE sighted in 03.00 N., 14.34 W., course and speed, 135°, 9 knots, at 1300Z/6. (C.in C. S.A. to 1 S.C. 1315/7)

SALOPIAN. Sighted four-master topsail schooner flying Vichy French colours heading 320° becalmed in 45.32 N., 20.00' W. at 1915/6. (SALOPIAN, 1525/7 to V.A.N.P., F.O.C.N.A.)

INDOCHINOIS Admty. 1104/29. Proper officer of the Crown, Sierra Leone, cannot find adequate legal grounds on which to ask court to condemn cargo of INDO CHINOIS. Request necessary instructions be issued through Govr., Sierra Leone. (C.in C. S.A. 1415/7, to Admty.)

CUBA. Your 1707/6 and 1747/6. Asking if 1216 sailors in CUBA, to be transported in neutral ships for repatriation, could remain in CUBA till passages become available. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C.in C. S.A. 1632/7)

My 1747/6. Following preliminary information obtained from CUBA. Passengers, cargo, French sympathies, no evidence at present of gold. (C.in C. S.A., 1721 M/7).

DJENNE My 1934/4. French N.A. states DJENNE left Casablanca 6/11 and will be in 55.35 N., 7.15 W. on 10/11. (N.A. Madrid 2026/7)

North Atlantic.

Italian S/M's at Tangier. Commenting on 1927/6 and 1848/6 from N.A. Madrid, re Spanish diver, W/T installation, etc., (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 1630/7 to D.N.I.)
Re despatch of neutral expert. (Consul-Gen. Tangier, 1509/7, to N.A. Madrid and tel. No. 691 to Admty. 2315/7). [illegible] 1655 [illegible] and [illegible] 1900/7. (F.O.C. N.A. 1901/7).

Operation "Coat" C.in C. Med. 1355/4. Vessels sails

MOST SECRET.

7.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. To complete with ammunition from RESOLUTION before leaving Freetown. (D.T.S.D., 1340/7).

WINCHESTER CASTLE. My 1049/2. In view of sailing of WINCHESTER CASTLE, Clyde, request instructions whether safe to anchor Rothesay to await daylight. (N.O.S.O. Capetown to Admty., 1129/7).

Troop Transport. Your 2126/6. Arrangements with Dept. of Defence, Union of S.A., re convoys (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1254 B/7 to D. of S.T.)

CITY OF DUNKIRK
SAVALONFO Overdue shipping, my 0915/4 and 1015/6. Both arrived Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1156/7).

Troop Transports and Hospital Ships. Your 1304/29/10 and 2210/16/10, no ship already fitted as Hospital Ship can be made available as requested in your 1236/4/10 as all in service of fitting are urgently needed.
Propose SELANDIA be fitted by you for the purpose as suggested in your 1615/19/8. Desirable also to release LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE from Trooping Service Durban/Mombasa in order to resume her normal service. Alternative shipping will be made available as soon as possible for your service. (D.S.T. 2231/7 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.

Hurricanes, ARGUS Repeating Air Ministry 1920/6 to S.O. Force H., re Hurricane pilots, ARGUS, having had no carrier experience, and Air Staff consider moonlight take-off should not be attempted. (D.N.A.D.1110/7)

Greece. Situation Report 1800 hours. Confused fighting in area Kgoumenitsa. (M.A.Athens to C.in C. M.E., 0155/7).

Valona transports. Papagos points out that reconnaissance by 30 Sqdn. R.A.F. reported 16 ships in harbour at Valona indicating arrival extensive Italian reinforcements. Need for withdrawing regular division from Crete more pressing than ever. (Brit. Mil. Mission, Greece, to C.in C. M.E., 0155/7).

/ Air Recce. .....

MOST SECRET.

7.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Air Recce. Ionian Isles air reconnaissance today cancelled. (H.O.I.C. Malta 0649/7.

Operation White. Choice of plan, (a), ARGUS (b) or (c), ARK ROYAL (S.O. Force H, 0901/7, to Admty.) See Med. Vol.
Ref. 1114/6 from Admty. (arrival of NEWCASTLE at Gibraltar). Date.
(F.O. Force H., to NEWCASTLE, 0903/7).
Sailed ARGUS, DESPATCH, VESPER, VENOMOUS, and WINDSOR in accordance my 1617/5 and DESPATCH's 1542/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1052/7).
Repeating H.O.I.C. Greenock's 1617/5 re sailing ARGUS, DESPATCH, etc., to F.O. Force H, (D.O.D. (F) 1744/7).

FORMIDABLE, EAGLE Your 2001/5. For reasons (given) do not consider proposed change round should be made. (S S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1153/7)

Fulmars. To reduce immediate shortage Fulmars in E. Mediterranean, propose ARK ROYAL should fly 3 of 808 Sqdn. to Malta during current operation for embarkation in ILLUSTRIOUS as arranged by you. (D.N.A.D. to C.in C. Med., 1712/7).

Air Report. H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., A. 449, 1207/7.
No naval items.

Unidentified Ship. Position course and speed unidentified hospital ship, 36.25 N., 16.07 E., 160°, 15. (REGENT, 1730/7).

Taranto. Air Report a.m./7. (V.A. Malta 1205/7)
See also H.Q. Malta 1755/7. Air Report p.m./7. (V.A. Malta, 1845/7).

Brindisi. Air Report p.m./7. (V.A. Malta 1845/7).

Greece Minefields. Your 2100/1. No objection to proposed areas seen in Admty. Subject to any remarks by C.in C. Med., request Greek authorities declare these areas. (Hd. of M. to N.A., Athens, 2025/7)

Air Report. Malta situation report 1700/7 all times G.M.T. Recco. Ionian Sea North of lat. 37 N. by following aircraft 0325 to 1458 Sunderland 230 Sqdn. nil report; 0605 to 1115 Latecoere French seaplane, nil report. Recco. Taranto by 2 Glenn Martins 0515 to 0942 first Glenn Martin reported in outer harbour 4 battleships

/ 5 cruisers .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

Air Report. (contd.)

5 cruisers 4 destroyers in inner harbour and 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers about 10 miles S.W. Taranto course 115 deg. convoy composed of 2 minesweepers 9 very small M/Vs 10 miles N.E. Furenica Point 2 M/Vs. about 3000 tons each in line ahead course 050 escorted by warship painted grey rather larger than a destroyer probably an auxiliary. 1135 to 1530 2nd, Glenn Martin Brindisi. Took photos of harbour and aerodromes. Attacked by 4 Macchis gunner claims seriously damaging 1 enemy aircraft. Inner harbour Brindisi 4 cruisers and number of destroyers. Battleship under construction moved to northern side of Basin approx. quarter mile from former position. Taranto 5 battleships 8 cruisers possibly 3 battleships 10 cruisers unknown number of destroyers. Convoy 4 M/Vs 30 to 40 miles out of Taranto. Course 170 degs. No enemy air activity over Malta today, no naval or military items.
(M.A. Malta, 1755/7 to Air Ministry).

East Indies.

U/B Reports. No sighting of periscope by BARON HERRIES at 0306Z/6. Ship reported shortly after being sighted obscured by rain squall. E.C.I.C. Simonstown requested to arrange interview with Master on arrival Durban. (C.in C. E.I., 1900 Z/7).

E.F.S. Date of leaving Bombay. (F.O.C. R.I.N. 0001/7).

French Ships. Interception of. See FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

Hospital Ships. Your 0043/25 Armindia prefers hospital ships used Suez Bombay and states that if QUEEN MARY AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA are used for invalids from Bombay to Australia., Australia should be responsible for providing medical staff in these ships. (S.O.T.O. Bombay, 1330Z/7 to A.C.N.B.)

Convoy E.S.7. Sailing telegram. Escort, SHOREHAM. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1629/7).

China.

N.E.I. Navy. Your 0152/1. Reaction of C.in C. Dutch E. Indies to proposals. (C.in C. China, to Admty. 0315Z/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SHERWOOD
STANLEY

SHERWOOD arrived here 1100 G.M.T. today defective evaporators. Your 1739/6. Only effective destroyer STANLEY, now at one hour's notice. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1414/7).

Town Destroyers.

Your 1021/6. (1) R.C.N. Destroyers will operate under command of S.O. Halifax Force while in Canadian coastal waters and approaches and work in conjunction with R.C.A.F. in area that can be covered by air search. Should you desire co-operation of R.C.N. vessels beyond this area, S.O. Halifax Force has authority to transfer command to you or R.A.3 B.S. (2) S.O. Halifax Force and N.O.I.C. Halifax have been instructed to keep in close touch with R.A. 3 B.S. in order to facilitate any operation that may involve vessels under his command. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1315/7 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

R.C.N.
Destroyers,
Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Your 1021/6, H.M.C. Ships ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE, COLUMBIA and SAINT FRANCIS will be at (2 corrupt groups) by p.m./8 F.O.C. 3 B.S. is understood to have three Town class destroyers available which I am informed he intends to place under immediate orders of S.O. Halifax Force if the occasion arises. Air co-operation will be arranged.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1036/7, to C.in C. A. W.I.

Air search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER.

3 Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft carried out special reconnaissance 6/11 from Newfoundland 600 miles towards reported position of enemy raider. Nothing sighted except 2 small merchant vessels. At 1800 G.M.T. in 060° N. 046° W. Finnish ship 2000 tons black hull superstructure and funnels, course 090°. 7 knots at 1910 in 049° N. 049° W. Merchant vessel 2500 tons black hull and funnels, course 245° 9 knots. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2131/7)

Air search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Your 1316. Re co-operation of R.C.N. Destroyers with R.C.A.F. What are limits of air searches at this time of year. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2321/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.11.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DELOS — Arrived from Russia, 4000 tons of grain. (Galata 1142/7)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

LINOIS
DALNY
LE COMTE DE LISLE
VILLE DE ROUEN
VILLE DE TAMATAVE
BERNADIN DE ST. PIERRE. — If French ships LINOIS, DALNY, LE COMTE DE LISLE, VILLE DE ROUEN, VILLE DE TAMATIVE, BERNADIN DE ST PIERRE are sent into British ports for examination a summary of manifest is to be telegraphed to Admty. repeated to C. in C., East Indies, and ships detained pending further instructions. (C. in C., E.I., 0908Z/7)

CONTAC
RICHEPANSE — Following received from Navy Department French ship CANTAC arrived Fort de France Martinique from Casablanca 2/11. RICHEPANSE entered Point A Pitre Guadeloupe 5/11. (N.A.Washington 1120/7 to Admty.)

Interception
Simonstown — My 2025/6 (not to all addressees) and my 1805/6 (re intercepting of French ships) Ships sent in for examination, summaries of manifests to be reported and ships detained pending further instructions. Ships should not be sent into and port in Union of South Africa except Simonstown. (C. in C., S.A. 1159/7)

KILISSI
COMPEIGNE
ESPIGUETTE
LT.ST.LOUBERT — French ships are expected to leave Sebutal as follows KILISSI on evening of 8/11 destination unknown, possible Casablanca. COMPEIGNE, ESPIGUETTE, LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBETR B.I.E. in near future. Desirable to intercept these ships if unescorted and outside territorial waters and send them into Gibraltar under armed guard or escort them in. (F.O.C.N.A., 1605/7)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1511 — D.F., 59°-60° N., 17°-20° W., (D.D.I.C. 1602/7 to C. in C., H.F. and RODNEY)

1052 — D.F., probable U-Boat 57.10 N., 16.20 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1119/7)

1600 — At 1600 aircraft sighted U-Boats in position 48.05 N., 07.22 W., course 135° (V.A.S. to submarines on patrol, 1931/7)

1630 — Enemy submarine has dived in position 48.36 N., 08.36 W., (aircraft 100 Sqdn. 1632/7) Aircraft reported U-Boat dived in position 48.36 N., 08.36 W. at 1630 (C. in C., W.A. to V.A.S., 1641/7) Cancel my 1641/7) Cancel my 1641. Position of U-Boat, 48.05' N., 7.22' W., course 135° (C. in C., W.A., to V.A.S. 2000/7)
At 1625 in 48.36 N., 08.36 W., U-Boat forced to dive by British aircraft, probably homeward bound. (V.A.S. to S/M's on patrol Area B. 1721/7)

East Indies

09052/6 — See FOREIGN STATIONS

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian one may still be in Azores area.
German 1 about 49° N., 9° W. may arrive Lorient night of 8th.
1 which was in 50° 30' N., 10° W., at 2036/6 and 1 which was in 49° 30' N., 8° W at 2209/6 may be outward bound to N.W. Approaches or to attack naval force.
1 in 50° 57' N., 17° 22' W., at 1840/6.
No news of the one reported at 0940/5 in 48° 54' N., 20° 09' W.
1 about 56° N., 10°-12° W.
1 about 60° N., 19°-20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1310/7)

Attack of Unidentified Submarines

At 2000 today cancel Admiralty General Message 912 AZ of 1710/26/10 (Surface ships not to attack unidentified subs.)
(C.O.D.H. 0950/7, Admty. General Message Home 933 A.Z.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.11.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

My 2241/6. Contact maintained until 0046, on completion 8th attack when directing ship suddenly lost contact at range 800 yards. 88 depth charges dropped. Only visible evidence of submarine destruction is large oil patch. Continuing search. HARVESTER in company. Percentage fuel remaining 30. (OTTAWA, 0915/7 to C. in C., W.A.)
Your 0915/7. Sounds very promising, stick to it. (C. in C., W.A., 1122/7 to OTTAWA)
Propose continuing search until one hour after sunset to-day, then proceeding Lough Foyle to refuel. (OTTAWA, 1631/7)

MOST SECRET.

8.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Darrow Deep Light Vessels

Owing to heavy attacks on light vessels in the Darrow Deep and the desire of the light vessel crews to be evacuated it is considered that these light vessels should be removed and replaced by light buoys with shaded light visibility 2 miles.
Moreover if these light vessels are sunk in the channel they are liable to block it. (C.in C. Nore 1704/8 to Adty.)

French Warships.

Your 2314/4.
A. Concur with proposed action.
F.S. LEOPARD is being sailed to join your command as soon as she is ready.
B. MINERVE refit is to proceed.
JUNON is to be taken in hand on completion of refit of MINERVE.
SURCOUF is to be taken in hand for docking and completion of small defects forthwith. (D.D.I.D. H. 1706/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Refugees from Gibraltar.

Cancel my 1522/3. FRANCONIA is required for other duties (D.D.O.D. H. 1741/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Force P.

NIGERIA, KENYA, EMERALD will be referred to as the Plymouth Force with abbreviated title "Force P" and, when engaged in operations, will come under the orders of C.S.10.
(C.in C. W.A. 1339/8 and 1657/8 to C.S.10. and Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELIGHT.

At 1130/8. (D.C. 1142/8)
At 2330/7 (D.C. 0015/8).

A/A Defences of Plymouth

Minelaying occurs every night in Approaches to Plymouth and Mines have been laid recently in the Hamoaze and Narrows apparently from above Balloon Barrage. Ships now berthed up harbour could not proceed to Sound without considerable risk. Present effective military weapons are 2 Bofors Guns. Request immediate provision of additional A/A Guns or of night-fighting Fighter A/C. (C.in C. W.A. 0056/8 to Adty.)

/ German Interest in Ireland. ...

MOST SECRET.

8.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

German Interest in Ireland. Spanish newspaper correspondents in Germany all report German interest in Ireland and suggest British designs on Irish ports which probably means German designs. (N.A. Madrid, 2030/8 to Admty.)

Movements.

ROCHESTER. Intend sailing for Gibraltar 1600/8. ETA. 16/11. (P.O.I.C. Liverpool 0830 and 1200/8 to Adty.)

CHEVREUIL. ETA. 1600/8. (CHEVREUIL 1000/8 to S.N.O. Tobermory).

Dover. Patrols for Night 8/9. (V.A. Dover 1429/8).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines for Night 8/9. (A.C.O.S. 1513/8).

Rosyth. Movements for Night 8/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 1536/8 and 1900/8)

Portsmouth. Night Movements (C.in C. Portsmouth 1633/8)

Nore and Harwich Movements. (N.O.I.C. 1810/8).

CALIFORNIA. Expect pass through 58° 50' N. 6° 15' W. at 1200/9. Course Southerly through Minches, 14½ knots. (CALIFORNIA 1951/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Operations.

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Keep outside Air R/C range from Biscay Ports with may be taken as 20° W. So long as fuel situation in Destroyers permits, remain between 45° N. and 50° N. and, if practicable, remainlong enough to cover Convoys referred to in my 0100/8. Approximate position of Convoy at 1200/9 is 45° N. 21° W. Course of Convoys 350°, speed 8 knots (V.C.N.S. 0031/8 and 0332/8 to N.C.I.)

DESPATCH and ARGUS are proceeding through 50° N. 19° 30' W., 45° N. 19° 30' W., and 40° N. 15° W., and will pass second position about 1300/10. RENOWN is to leave Convoys so as to join DESPATCH and proceed in company to Gibraltar for Operation WHITE. (V.C.N.S. F. 0106/8 to RENOWN)

/ If there is ...

MOST SECRET.

8.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

ADMIRAL SCHEER (Contd.)

If there is any chance of bringing this Raider to action, REPULSE must be used exclusively for that purpose. But position in which Convoy was attacked must be searched for survivors by one or more Ships of your Force. (1st S.L. 0125/8 to REPULSE).

Your 0031/8. Destroyers must fuel a.m. 11th November, HOOD and Cruiser a.m. 12th. There seem to be 2 alternatives (1) leave position 047° 30' N. 017° 00' W. at 2000/8 for Scapa which is my present intention. (11) To fuel Plymouth p.m. 9/11 returning to convoy about latitude 050° 00' N.

My position, course, and speed are 048° 57' N. 014° 04' W. 235° 15 knots. Spoke MASSILIA Casablanca to Liverpool. (S.C.S.L. 1030/8 to Adty.)

Join NELSON on T.R. line 35 during daylight. NELSON steer S.W. by day and N.E. by night. (C.in C. H.F. 1139/8 to WORCESTERSHIRE).

Reference 2044/7 from Admiralty. SOUTHAMPTON is being sent to fuel in Hvalfiord and then to patrol in Denmark Straits. NELSON patrolling as in my 1200/7 but position amended to read 063° 02' N. 011° 22' W. WORCESTERSHIRE is being ordered to join me. F.O.C.N.P. is to re dispose available N P Trawlers to North West and South East of my patrol to watch flank of Iceland Faroes passage. Request air search be redesigned with primary object of locating during daylight a raider endeavouring to pass through above passage northabout during following night. Suggest a Sunderland be transferred temporarily to Reykjavik for this purpose if search of Western Approaches to Denmark Straits is also desirable. (C.in C. H.F. 1143/8 to Adty.)

My 1229/7. DOUGLAS, VIMY, and BULLDOG are to R/V with NELSON in 62° 46' N. 11° 58' W. at 1200/9. (C.in C. H.F. 1145/8 to DOUGLAS)

If not past 20° W., proceed through 56° N. 18° W. which is R/V for Convoy H.X. 84. (C.in C. W.A. 1211/8 to LEAMINGTON, LEEDS, MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL, LINCOL, LEWES, LUDLOW, STANLEY)

/ Your 1030/8 ....

MOST SECRET.

8.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Your 20 S/23/7.
I ? H.F. Number two paragraph one (E).
Present indications are that raider is still to Westward so ships N P are to steer North Eastwards by Night and South Westwards by day. Trawler Patrols are similarly to be reversed.
Have you told N P where I am.
(C.in C. H.F. 1304/7 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Your 1030/8. Concur with your intention to leave 47° 30' N. 17° W. at 2000/8 and return with your Force to Scapa.
(D.D.O.B. H. 1020/8 to B.C.I)

B.C.I's 1030/8 and Adty. 0031/8.
Request you sail AUSTRALIA to arrive at 48° N. 20° W. at 1200/10. She is required to cover Convoys H.G. 46, S.L. 535, and S.L.F. 55 after the departure of RENOWN for Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. H. 1029/8 to C.in C. W.A.)
My position, course, and speed are 56° 20' N. 23° 1' W., 180°, 12 knots.
(CORNWALL 1801.H/8 to PRETORIA CASTLE)
HOOD, 2 Cruisers, and 3 Destroyers operating between 45° and 50° N. and as far as 20° W. (V.A.S. 1939/8 to S/M's Area B).
BLUEBELL and HONEYSUCKLE in company will be in position ordered at 0001/9.
(BLUEBELL 2150/8 to C.in C. W.A.).
Request you detach SOUTHAMPTON to arrive Clyde P.M./13. (1st S.L. 2313/8 to C.in C. H.F.)
Unless good reasons for not breaking W/T silence, you should now report whether you have any evidence of attack on Convoy H.X. 84 by Raider on 5/11.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2321/8 to LEWES, LINCOLN, LUDLOW).

Convoys.

Admty. 1937/7. S.C.11 and H.X. 88. Positions and route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax to RODNEY, 2300/8).

Iceland.

Your 0.350/3/11. (1212/3) Regret owing to urgent demands of recent developments elsewhere it is not possible to send A/C requested or supply A/A Bofors Guns.
(War Office 0045/8 to Alabaster, Reykjavik).

/ Straits of Dover .....

MOST SECRET.

6.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

Straits of Dover. Reports from Dover by R.D.F. last night indicate presence of surface vessels possibly enemy rescue craft between East Varne and No. 2 Buoy. Two available M.T.B's carried out search between East Varne and 2A Buoy from 2240 till moonset without result. (V.A. Dover 1136/8 to Adty.)

Air Re-inforcements for Middle East. Admiralty's 0218/5.
(a) Intend MANCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON to embark both aircraft before leaving United Kingdom. If necessary one aircraft from each ship will be disembarked temporarily at Gibraltar.
(b) My 1751/10/10. Request confirmation that excess R.A.F. personnel from Gibraltar will be embarked in NEW ZEALAND STAR or R.A.F. personnel ships observing that if number exceeds 600 reduction in fighting efficiency will be entailed.
(F.O.C. 18th C.S. 1231/3 to Adty.)

Operations F.T.1. and F.T.2. Following two Operations are for trial as an anti-E-Boat measure. Details. (C.in C. Nore 1700/8).

Submarines.

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0709/9. (V.A.S. 1714/8, 1919/8).

2nd S/M Flotilla. Following are estimated positions at 0800/9. (Capt. S.2. 2026/8 to S/M's Area B).

British Air Activity.

S.A. 14. Cancelled, owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0906/8)

Air Raids on Tromso on 5/9 and 10/10. My 1834 October 29th. I have now obtained further particulars of air raids at Tromso from another member of crew ESTHER THORDEN as follows, begins:- September 5th 5 German aircraft destroyed. October 10th time bomb dropped subsequent explosion damaged slipway seaplane base and also oil tanks.
(Petsamo 1327/8 to D.N.I.)

/ Lorient)
Dunkirk)
Havre) .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

Lorient
Dunkirk
Havre.

Attacked by A/C. Night 7/8 (H.Q.B.C. 1915/8)

Proposals for Night Decoys.

In Orkneys (D. of L.D. 1922/8 to A.C.O.S.)
In Clyde Area. (D. of L.D. 1923/8 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Rosyth Area.

Air Patrols in my 1908/7 will be flown tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2256/8 to Adty.)
Air Searches for 9/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1808/8 and 0528/9).

EMPIRE DORADO
(Convoy O.B. 239)

Bombed in 58° 7' N. 16° 50' W.
Boats smashed, sinking slowly, some men still aboard, some taken to rafts.
(Valentia W/T. 1200/8). Think ship can be salvaged. Comparatively calm.
(Valentia Radio 1400/8)
If not with HALOM, proceed to EMPIRE DORADO.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1403/8 to ENGLISHMAN, THAMES) Sinking slowly. No means of getting away, all lifeboats smashed. Casualties aboard, 2 rafts still alongside. Help urgently required. (Scapa W/T. 1455/8).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of S.S. EMPIRE DORADO in 55° 07' N. 16° 50' W. at 1045/8 MAN-O-WAR standing by.
Tug THAMES also despatched.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1030/9, to SCHELDE).

2 M/V's attacked.

Enemy aircraft has reported successfully attacking one 8,000 ton Merchant Vessel accompanied by one Destroyer in 55° 32' N. 17° 45' W. at 1110/8 and one 4,000 ton Merchant Vessel in 54° 33' N. 16° 45' W. at 1145/8.
(D.D.I.C. 1332/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Convoy PILOT.

A/C attacking convoy. My position 51° 48' N. 1°30' E. (WINCHESTER 1352/8) 34 Aircraft 5 miles from Convoy (WINCHESTER 1356/8) Fighters being sent (Rosyth 1400/8)

AGAMEMNON
(Dutch, 1930 tons)
sunk.

One ship sunk. FIRBOLOW damaged, possibility of salvage. Position S.W. of Swin. (WINCHESTER 1426/8 to C.in C. Nore)

FIRBOLOW
(British, 1201 tons) damaged.

Pilot Boat with injured arriving about 1800 (WINCHESTER 1450/8 to N.C.S.O. Southend) SUNFISH has FIRBOLOW in tow (WINCHESTER 1529/8 to C.in C. Nore).

WINCHESTER damaged by near misses, mines and bombs. No casualties. Now anchored in 51° 43' N. 1° 30' E. Am rejoining convoy. (CATTISTOCK 1639/8 to C.in C. Nore).

/ Dive-bombed ....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

Dive-bombed by 15 A/C at 1615.
Superficial damage and 7 casualties.
(CATTISTOCK 2046/8 to C.in C. Nore)
30 survivors from AGAMEMNON landed Southend, 5 injured. Position of wreck 3 cables 220° from S.W. Swin L.V. 2 Tugs will take FIREGLOW up river. (N.O.I.C. Thames 0145/9 to C.in C. Nore).

Report of Air Attacks on Convoys since 1/11. Requested, under following headings. (1st S.L. 1738/8 to A.C.O.S., C.in C. Rosyth, Nore).

Orkneys. One A/C dropped 4 Bombs 2½ miles North of Roseness at 1913/8. No casualties reported. (A.C.O.S. 2225/8 to Adty.)

Norwegian Coast. There are indications of prolonged Enemy Air Activity from Norwegian Coast starting 0400/9. (A.C.N.S. H. 2337/8 to C.in C.H.F.)

Faroes. Several reports recently of enemy aircraft over Sydero but flying high angle and nationality uncertain except in one case. Yesterday however reports received from Sydero Stromo Ostero Videro of a two engine high speed monoplane flying at about 1000 feet and definite confirmation of enemy aircraft. N.O.I.C. has informed A.C.O.S. (O/C Troops, Faroe Islands. Rec. from W.O. 0902).

Mining.

Thames Estuary. HMS HERO reports detonating one Red Mine at 2319/7 in 226° 1 mile from N.E. Swin L.V. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0037/8 to C.in C. Nore)

Depth Charges. No restriction on dropping Depth Charges in QZH. 202 and QZH. 209, or in any further Deep Field in N.W. Approaches. (C.in C. W.A. 0046/8).

B.S. 46. 56° 1' N. 1° 18' W., direction 328°, 9 miles. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 0021/8 to Adty.) Intend sail from Spurn Point 1500/9. Laying will begin at 1045/10. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 0931/8 to Adty.) Your 1046/8. Concur. (A.C.N.S. H. 1331/8 to C.in C. Nore).

/ VIOLET ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

VIOLET. My 2200/8. Details of Mine exploded by VIOLET. (C.in C. Rosyth 1113/8 to Adty.)

KELLETT, ALBURY, FAIRBOURNE. To carry out a 50% search of Channel 2 miles each side of following line. Report date of commencement. (C.in C. Rosyth 1137/8 to KELLETT).

Milford Haven. Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1446/8 to Adty.) One Ground Mine self detonated in 51° 40' 42" N. 5° 8' 10" W. One Red Mine detonated in 51° 41' 45" N. 5° 7' 30" W. during night sweeping. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/8 to Adty.) My 1322/7 and 1214/8. Operations on 9/11 cancelled owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1845/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

MURIA. Tug, believed MURIA, sunk by Mine at 1425/8 one cable N.E.W. from Botany Buoy. No survivors. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1714/8 to Adty.) My 1714/8. 51° 26' 30" N., 1° 27' 30" E. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0220/9).

A.P.2. (Harbour Defence Patrol Craft). Mined and sunk in 119° Pendennis 2950 yards at 1859/8. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1730/8 to Adty.)

Dover. Routine sweeps to 1200/8. One Mine and 2 Explosive cutters found 2.3 miles 94° South Foreland. (V.A. Dover 1818/8 to Adty.)

Harwich. 4 Paddle Mine-Sweepers continuing search West of X cleared area. One German W-type Mine cut and sunk in 51° 44' 36" N. 1° 40' 48" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1838/8 to Adty.)

Stavanger. German Minelaying A/C reported at Stavanger. This may indicate extended Minelaying on N. and N.E. coasts of Scotland. (D.D.I.C. 1845/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

Plymouth. Closed, owing to enemy Minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/8 to Capt. D.3.)

Blyth. Port closed until completion of sweeping about 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2321/8 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

S.N. 44. Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1826/8 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Ship. Iceland A/C sighted a 16,000 ton ship at 1436/7 steering East in 67° 33' N. 24° 52' W. Ship was not a Pocket Battleship. Report immediately if ship was not you. (V.C.N.S 0922/8 to CHITRAL) My position at 1436/7 was 66° 52' N. 25° 8' W. steering 070° at 15 knots. My position was 10 miles South of Ice Pack. (CHITRAL 1055/8 to Adty.)

Large Enemy Unit. Indications that large Enemy Unit may be operating near Zone C.1. (V.A.S. 1814/8 to S/M's Area A.)
At 1306/8 B.S.T. Enemy Unit in 58° N. 5° E. May have been either HIPPER or SCHARNHORST. At 1535/8 B.S.T. Enemy Unit in 57° 55' N. 6°30' E. D/F unreliable fixes. (D.D.I.C. 1814/8) Indications are based on R.F.P. No R.F.P. of second transmission (D.D.I.C. 1818/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

E-Boats. Indications point to possible presence of E-Boats astern of Convoy. (C.in C. Nore 2143/8 to CATTISTOCK).

Flushing. One large Ship at anchor S.E. of Flushing on Night 7/8 (H.A.B.C. 1916/8).

Rotterdam. 8 vessels about 5000 tons and 3 or 5 about 1000 tons, at anchor without lights on Night 7/8 (H.A.B.C. 1918/8).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

IMPULSIVE. Defective propeller shaft. Undesirable proceed to sea until defects remedied. (C.in C. Nore 1046/8 to Adty.)

SOUTHAMPTON. Speed much reduced by foul bottom and A/S gear defective for last six months. Docking desirable before she goes abroad. (C.in C. N.F. 1157/8 to Adty.)

WIVERN. WIVERN's 2322/C. Request you convene Board of Inquiry and keep Adty. informed. (C.in C. W.A. 1352/8 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

DIONI. (Greek, 4227 tons) Stranded. All anchors lost. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 2140/8 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

8.11.1940.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Routeing. My 1922/27/10 and your 1816/4/11. Consider that to provide for independently routed ships crossing estimated track of offensive reconnaissance planes at right angles, they should normally be routed to cross meridian 18 degs. West between 55 degs. North and 57 degs. North but that a proportion from West Atlantic ports should cross 18 degs. W. North of this and proceed thence North of Rockall. (C.in C. W.A. 1837/8 to Admiralty.)

Faroes. Faroes 1201/7. Re routeing of ships to Faroes. For this purpose I presume Faroes would be regarded as U.K. Port. (A.C.O.S. 1941/8 to Adty.)

Convoys.

C.W. Concur with C.in C. Nore's 2305/8. Observations. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1835/8)

S.L.S. 53. May be considerably to southward. Convoy ordered to steer 000 from 1800/7 which course should take them slightly to westward of position A. (D.T.D., 0035/8 to RENOWN)

S.L. 53. If you have not met British Man of War turn ships in company in S.L. 53 slow forthwith to course crossing Latitude 50 dgs. 00' N. thirty miles further West than your original route. (D.T.D. 0140/8 to C.B.M.S. Area 1 for WESTLEA only)

H.G. } S.L. } On arrival at 37.30 N., 20.00 W. H.G. and S.L. convoys should steer 350°. (D.T.D. 0036/8 to WELLINGTON, ARAWA).

S.L. 54. Route. (F.O.C. N.F., to SALOPIAN, CILICIA, MARSDALE, 1120/8).

H.X.84. (Attacked by raider). For ships in CORNISH CITY convoy attacked p.r./5. My message 2107/6. For "given in standard route" read "given in envelope C". (C.in C. W.A., 1006/8, addressed C.B.M.S.1) If not past 20° W., proceed through position 56.00 N., 18.00 W., which is R.V. for Convoy H.X.84. (C.in C. W.A. 1211/8 to LEAMINGTON, LEEDS, MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL, LINCOLN, LEWES, LUDLOW, STANLEY.) Asking for any evidence of attack by raider on 5/11. (D.O.D. (H) to LEWES, etc. 2321/8).

/ Commodore and 5 ships..

MOST SECRET.

8.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Commodore and 5 ships will pass through position 056° 00' N., 015° 00' W. about 0600/9. Intercept and escort them. (HAVELOCK, 0036/9 to BLUEBELL)

W.N.
E.N.

Your 2022/7. In future if it appears desirable through enemy action to re-route W.N. and E.N. convoys passing through my command will issue necessary orders to S.O. of escort direct repeating to authorities concerned. (A.C.O.S. 1203/8 to C.in C. W.A).

O.B. 239.

Your 1930/7 (Sailing of O.B. 239 from Oban) approved (C.in C. W.A. 1827/8 to N.C.S.O. Oban).
My 1251/7. Sailing of O.B. 239 Oban now 0800/10. (C.in C. W.A. 1843/8).
Following message received from ALDERGROVE begins - To C.in C. W.A. from OAKLAND MALLOW request instructions as to when she should be detached from Convoy, 1010/8 - ends. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1428/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.C. 9 B.

H/V S.C.9 B. in 053° 46' N., 005° 08' W. 0200/9 (C.in C. W.A. 1527/8 to CANADIAN PRINCE LEEDS UNITED).

S.C.10.

Route. (D.T.D. 1214/8) Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to WALKER, etc., 2305/8).

F.N. 29.

2 M.L. to join at position Z. (F.O.C. Harwich Force 1736/8 to SHELDRAKE).

CISCAR.

When ready, to be sailed in first available O.B. Convoy for Clyde and thence in W.N. Convoy with instruction to break off independently for Reykjavik. (D.T.D. 1857/8)

Air Attacks on Convoys.

To assist review problem of protection to East Coast and North about convoys from air attack, request report for all such attacks in the area under your command since 1/10. (1 S.L. 1753/8, to A.C.O.S., C.in C. Rosyth and Nore.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.11.1940
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PONCELET
Sunk

Necessary we should be in possession of full information regarding circumstances in which French submarine PONCELET was sighted and attacked. (C.N.S. to C.S.1. 0001/8)
Your 0001/8 MILFORD AND TURCOMAN were on patrol off Port Gentil, DEVONSHIRE and DELHI off Libreville. Am closing MILFORD at dawn to obtain rescued. 3 officers and 51 men rescued all in MILFORD.
Casualties if any not yet known. (F.O.C. 1 C.S. to Admty., 0302/8)
Your 0302/8. Presumed signal containing fuller information will be forwarded after meeting MILFORD. Particularly desired to know sequence of events from first sighting of submarine and what was known of movements of submarine before she was sighted. (V.C.N.S. to C.S. 1., 1032/8)

My 0302/8. Following report from MILFORD Submarine first sighted 1547, 013 degs. Cape Lopez 15 miles on surface 050 degs. 6½ miles steering north. Signalled her to stop which she continued to ignore. Opened fire at 1710 range 10900, with foremost gun, fire not returned. At 1720 submarine turned to westward and dived range then 8700. While manoevring submarine bombed by DEVONSHIRE Walrus. At 1733 submarine surfaced and was again engaged. Crew fell in on deck at 1735, diastance of submarine the 2½ miles. Closed and again signalled her to stop, then steer 300 degs. 10 knots. She replied by semaphoring that she was French S/M PONCELET and unable to work her engines. Boat lowered with armed guard at 1815 but submarine scuttled herself before boat could leave ship. Part 3 follows.

My 0821, part 3. Log of French S/M PONCELET now discovered in MILFORD confirms firing torpedo and gives time as 1423. (C.S.1. 1014A/8)

My 0821 part 3 final. There is some evidence from survivors that S/M fired 1 or more torpedoes about 1500. MILFORD felt underwater explosion and TURCOMAN's asdic dome sustained damage ½ hour before. S/M was hit forward by MILFORD on diving shell passing through without exploding but caused water to enter main hull necessitating surfacing. Aircraft bombing ineffective. Captain or 1st Lt. lost. (C.S.1., 0821A/8 to Admiralty)

/Is there.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PONCELET Sunk. Contd.

Is there any objection to sending survivors to Lagos if transfer to DELHI can be effected 9/11. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1514A/8 to Admiralty)

Request arrange 3 officers 51 men survivors French submarine to be received at Lagos arriving DELHI about 11/9 to be kept under guard (C. in C., S.A. 1745N/8 to Governor Nigeria)

Your 1514A/8 and my 1745N/8 refers. Given most secret distribution re French S/M. (C. in C., S.A. Station 1904/8 to F.O.C. 1st C.S.)

French N.A. on instructions from French Admiralty that 2 British seaplanes attacked submarine PONCELET escorted by BOUGAINVILLE in territorial waters off French Congo 4/11. What shall I reply. (N.A.Madrid, 1852/8 to Admiralty)

Attack on Libreville

Free French report small parties landed at head of Tsini Creek in accordance with plan casualties small, main force all landing today in same place. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 1001/8 to Admiralty)

My 1001/8. Main landing now in progress Action against BOUGAINVILLE by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and CDT. DOMINE intended to-morrow. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 2112/8 to Admty.)

Repatriation of CUBA's Sailors

Your 1632/7. Being investigated. Suggest chartering neutral ship and arranging with French Govt. for safe conduct. Presume should go to Casablanca (C. in C. S.A. 1815/8 to Admty.)

Interception of CUBA

My 1721/7. Further information as follows details. Trouble in FORT DE FRANCE amongst crews of warships who wished de-mobilisation chief reason for repatriation. (C. in C., S.A. 1935/8 to Admty.)

/DJENNE.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

DJENNE

My 1615/4 (1) Did not sail in company with MASSILIA.
(2) Left Casablanca 5/11 and will be in 55° 35' N., 7° 15' W., on 10/11. (D.O.D. (H) 2020/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

RICHELIEU
JEAN BART

During absence of Force H from Gibraltar every endeavour to be made by submarine patrol to prevent RICHELIEU or JEAN BART passing through Straits. Details for stopping. (1st S.L. 2348/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1210/3 para 5. They should be stopped unless overwhelming force is brought against our naval forces. (1st S.L 2351/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Dakar
Intelligence

From 2 French officers, Montezer and Bertrand, arrived from Dakar and desiring to join Free French Forces. (O.A.G. Sierra Leone to S of S for Colonies, 1940/8)

North Atlantic

RENOWN

Your 0901/7. As RENOWN will now be available, presumed this question does not arise. (D.O.D. (F) 1301/8 to S.O. Force H.)

Operation
"White"
ARGUS

Admty. 2325/2. Based on the assumption that your expected time of arrival is after dark 13/11 WISHART and WRESTLER will be sailed to R.V. with you during daylight on 12/11. Details of destroyers position and course. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132/8 to ARGUS)

Admty. 0106/8 and my 1132/8. Two destroyers only are available to send as escort for RENOWN ARGUS and DESPATCH. It is for consideration whether RENOWN should not return independently at high speed observing ARGUS will not be able to provide air escort. (F.O.C.N.A. 1240/8 to Admty. S.O. Force H., RENOWN)

Your 1240/8. It is at your discretion. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 1043/9)

/CILICIA....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

CILICIA — F.O.C.N.P. 1330/6 re movements of CILICIA DERBYSHIRE, CAMITO, RENOWN. No escort available. Pass through following positions
(a) 036° 00' N., 013° 30' W.,
(b) 035° 30' N., 010° 00' W.,
(c) 035° 30' N., 007° 00' W.,
Leave patrol and adjust speed to arrive Northernentrance 0730/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1238/8 to CILICIA)

Operation "Coat" PASTEUR — Admiralty's 1150/5. In interest of secrecy for operation 'Coat" disembarkation draft for Gibraltar has been delayed until a.m. Saturday 9th November. Intend sailing PASTEUR p.m./9 at best possible speed for U.K. No escort available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1328/8)

SERGENT GOUARNE / CAP BLANC / CAUDERNEC — Gibraltar 1000/8 French Armed Trawler SERGENT GOUARNE escorting CAP BLANC, CAUDERNEC passed from east to west. (S.O(I) Gib. 1317/8)

UPRIGHT — Your 1210 ARCTIC RANGER will R.V. with you in (position) at 1030/G.M.T./9. Information of own ships' movements affecting her. (F.O.C.N.A. 1702/8 to UPRIGHT)

VICTORIA — Your 1243/7. Not definitely known what ship B.B.C. referred to. Probably ship was Greek VICTORIA which was sunk in position 54° 48' N., 13° 28' W. As not possible to divert her at sea to Cadiz she was still on passage to England. (D.E.W.D. 2023/8 to N.A.Madrid)

Italian Submarines at Tangier — I feel that report contained in F.O. tel 1020/7 to Madrid thereon proves correct. 2. It looks as if an attempt might be afoot to exaggerate damage to submarine "B" so as to be able to claim a similar period of time for its repair to that which will be claimed for S/M "A" - which all along has been stated to be suffering from serious defect. (C-G. Tangier, THI 2330/8)

/Colonel Yuste.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Italian Submarines at Tangier -Contd.

Colonel Yuste described situation as follows:
(a) Examination of S/M "A" not yet concluded.
(b) S/M "B" severely injured. Offical report being established by Spanish naval authorities.
I terminated the interview by expressing my belief that Colonel Yuste and the Spanish Naval Authorities would take every possible precaution to see that the requirements of international law were fully adhered to. (Consul, Tangier 2205/8)

South Atlantic

Convoys W.S.4.C.

Route. (C. in C., S.A. 1001N/8 to CORNWALL PRETORIA CASTLE) escorted by PRETORIA CASTLE. Route speed (C. in C., S.A. 1003N/8)

S.L. 54

Route Speed (C. in C., S.A. 1003N/8)

W.S.4.A.

Escort CORNWALL. Route Speed (C. in C., S.A. 1003N/8)

PRETORIA CASTLE

Position 2030Z+2/7. W.S.4.A. not met. Am turning round at daylight assuming convoy is still northwards of me. (PRETORIA CASTLE 1805/8)

Operation "STRIPE" FURIOUS DIDO

Admty. 0218/5 para A.3. Orders for FURIOUS DIDO (A.C.N.S. (F) 1603/8) See Operations Volume.
Re shipment of certain material (A.C.N.S. (H) 2014/8 to C. in C., S.A.) See Operations Volume.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN RESOLUTION

Re transfer of ammunition. ROYAL SOVEREIGN may not complete with ammunition until 11/11 but could sail 10/11 with most of it on board (C. in C., S.A. 2051/8)
My 1340/7. Transfer is to be limited so as to bring both vessels to equal stowage. (V.C.N.S. 2200/8)

/CITY OF DUNKIRK...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CITY OF DUNKIRK
BARALONGO

Overdue shipping, my 0915/4 and 1015/6. Both arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1817/8)

WINCHESTER CASTLE

Your 1129/7 vessels of this description may enter Clyde in dark hours vide my 2115/6 to C. in C., S.A. (D.T.D. 1642/8 to N.C.S.O. Capetown)

Personnel of French M.V's Disposal of

Request early information of decisions or proposals in connection with personnel on board French Merchant ships brought in and under Naval Control. (C. in C., S.A. 1955/8 to Adty.)

Mediterranean

Crete

Telegram sent to G.O.C., Middle East, Government consider it imperative to hold Crete, etc., Greek plans. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 0047/8)

Ref. Brit. Mil. Mission's 1210/6 to W.O. Please inform C. in C., Med. in die course of date etc., (1st S.L. to N.A.Athens, 0050/8)

Movement of Greek troops and submarines (N.A.Athens 1229/8)(See Mediterranean Volume)

Taranto Reconnaissance

Morning reconnaissance of Taranto today unsuccessful owing to bad weather. Evening reconnaissance cancelled. T.O.O. 1151/8 (V.A.Malta 1203/8)

R.A.N.A.S. A.830 Squadron

Re maintenance. (V.A.Malta 1431/8)

Operation "Collar"

Admty. 1733/28/10 and 0218/5. Following are Admty. proposals. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1633/8) See Mediterranean Volume.

Fulmars

Re supply of via Takoradi. (D.N.A.D. 1045/8 to C. in C., Med., and FURIOUS, 1045/8)

NEWCASTLE

Admty. 1114/6 and S.O.Force H., 0903/7. Request sailing to arrive Gibraltar (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1243/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

MALAYA	Tour 1041/2. In view of effect on essential maintenance in retubing MALAYA in Egypt now, considered work should be postponed until arrival of workmen from U.K. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 1251/8)
QUEEN ELIZABETH	Probable date of leaving U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 1251/8)
Air Attack on Enemy Bases	Operationnl summary No 152 up to 1200/9. Egypt 8/11. Following 2 attacks made on enemy bases in Cyrenaica. 1215 hours. 8 Blenheims 113 Sqdn. bombed military barracks Derna from 17,000 feet direct hits starting a fire which was visible at a distance of 50 miles. 1410 hours. 9 Blenheims 55 Sqdn. bombed Tobruk foreshore from 16,000 feet hits demolishing buildings in naval barracks. Results of reconnaissances. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1208/9)
Air Report	Greece. My A.684 8/11. para 4. The Wellingtons 70 Squadron attacking Valona 7/11 encountered enemy fighters on standing patrol. 2 Wellingtons shot down 1 out of control. 1 CR 42 shot down unconfirmed. Italian broadcast states 2 personnel of crew of lost Wellington captured 8/11. Blenheims 30 Squadron maintained Fighter patrol over Athens. 5 Blenheims 84 Squadron moved to Eleusis from Egypt. Cyprus. 8/11.1 S.82 landed at Paralimni the crew surrendering themselves. The aircraft was apparently en route for the Dodecanese from Italy with a load of aero engine lubricating oil and lost its way. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1209/9)
Mines	Admty. 1352/5. Request mines may be shipped to Alexandria by first available freight. (C. in C., Med. 1239/8)

/Fulmars.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Fulmars — Admty's 1712/7. If you concur and consider operation feasible request you fly these aircraft to Malta to arrive in daylight 9th. Crews could return in Gibraltar Destroyers. (C. in C., Med. 1057/8 to S.O. Force H.)

Code Names "Request" "Action" — My 2541/25. Following code names allocated operations; "Request" to operation for conveying through to army at Mersa Matruh, "Action" to operation for transporting battalion from Egypt to Gate. (C. in C., Med., 1353/8)

Suda Bay Base — Your 1313/4. Capt. M.H.S.MacDonald, O.B.E., D.S.O., R.N. (retired) appointed approved to grant temporary acting rank of Commander to Lt. Com. H.R.M.Nichols. (N.A. 2 S.L. 1348/8 to C. in C., Med.)

Admty. 2029/1. Immediate requirements for Suda Bay are
(A) One sea-going and one harbour tug.
(B) One vessel for Boom Defence with winch and Derrick to lift 5 tons.
Sea Transport Advisor and Minesweeper Officer will arrive Athens shortly but if possible these craft should be sailed at once for Suda Bay. (C. in C., Med., 1209/5, recd. 1028/10)

Supply of Small Craft — 49. Add to my 1059 (0945 intended). Suda Bay represents another commitment for A/S craft. Tequested that four A/S trawlers additionnal to those asked for my 1917/9/9 may be sent. (C. in C., Med. 1101/6)

Motor Yachts — Admty. 1542/5 (Motor yachts recently employed on patrol available) Should be glad of some of these craft preferably 50 feet, if crews can be sent. Request their characteristics. (C. in C., Med., 1835/8 to Admty.)

(i) Nil report from A/C on R.C.
(ii) Nil report by Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS T.O.O. 1909/8. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1913/8 to S/M's on Patrol)

Alexandria Air Raid — Air raid 2000 to 2100. 5 machines, 6 bombs no casualties. (R.A.Alexandria, 2224/8)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

YALOU — C. in C., E.I., 06382/8 see French Merchant Ships.

Troop Convoys W.S. 4.C. — D. of S.T.'s 2231/7. No objection to transhipment of personnel at Durban subject to N.O.i/c Simonstown's concurrence. MANCHESTER CITY and NIEUW HOLLAND must proceed from South Africa with W.S. 4 C because they are too slow for W.S. 4.A. (D.T.D. 07452/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

C.M. 6. — My 0614/4 and your 1254/7. In order to economise on escorts, intend WESTERNLAND shall sail from Durban with LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, LLANDAFF CASTLE and SELANDIA leaving Durban (date) The whole convoy will be called C.M. 6. (C. in C., E.I. 08002/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

CERES C.M.6. — C. in C., E.I. 0614/4 and N.O.i/c Durban 0943/5 and C. in C., E.I. 0800/9. On completion of defects H.M.S. CERES is to sail from Durban for Capetown. Report expected time of arrival. H.M.S. CERES will fuel at Capetown and sail with WESTERLAND for Durban where WESTERNLAND will complete bunkers and H.M.S. CERES top up with fuel before sailing with convoy C.M.6. on (date) (N.O.I.C. Simonstown.

MAURETANIA AQUITANIA QUEEN MARY — My 1115/31/10. MAURETANIA sailed Bombay 8/11 for Colombo. Details of passengers. AQUETANIA sailed Bombay 8/11 for Fremantle QUEEN MARY sailed Bombay 9/11 for Fremantle (S.S.TO. India 14002/8)

Use of W/T by Shipping — Following restrictions placed on use of W.T. BY Allied Merchant Shipping including Greek ships on E.I. Station.
(A) Wireless silence is to be maintained except for enemy reports or distress message and to reply to British Coast Stations when called.
(B) Private messages are not permitted.
(C) Essential messages fr[illegible] ships at sea from owners or agents are to be passed to C. in C., E.I. for onward transmission.
(D) Official messages will be transmitted at times given in E.I. 3027/1 2nd June 1940 and E.I. communications order 79.
Note (1) The above instructions also apply

/to Dutch.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Use of W/T by Shipping-Contd. to Dutch ships subject to any instructions they may have received from Dutch E.I. Authorities. (C. in C., E.I. 1402Z/7)

FELCE NORTHCOR } Arrived 8/11. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1506Z/')

Air Reconnaissance S.A.A.F. made coastal and escort patrols Mombasa and Dic[illegible] Head.
2 Warships and 1 A.M.C. escorted in Mombasa
No enemy sighted. (H.C., S.A.A.F., M.E., 1209/9)

GNAT's 6" Guns Your 0958Z/10 and 0734Z/5. Approved to use GNAT's 6" equipments to form Coast Defence Battery at Port Victoria. (D. of L.D. 1541/8 to C. in C., E.I.)

China

Japanese Aircraft Reliably reported 85 Japanese Bombers probably Naval type 96 heavy Bombers, 60 fighters probably improved naval type 96 and 20 other aircraft at Gialan. C.N.A.C. have reported Hankow evacuated by Japanese Air Force. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0404Z/8 to Admty.)

Concentration of Japanese Transports Your 1859/6. Re reports of concentrations of Japanese transports at Haiphong, Taiping and Formosa. No confirmation, there have been reports of rumours of concentrations possibly reason for the peculiar report (S.O.(1) Hong Kong, 0159Z/8 to Admty.)
Your 1859/6 Concentration at Haiphong probably connected with withdrawal of Japanese troops ex Kwangsi Pearl river transport movements referred to in P.S.T.O. Hong Kongs number 8322/2/11 to W.O.
No information regarding concentration Formosa. Confirmation being sought. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 0646Z/8 to Admty.)

/LIVATHO....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

LIVATHO — Your C441/8. As present policy is that Allied Ships should not proceed Indo-China ports request reason for exception in case of LIVATHO (D.T.D. 1307/8 to C. in C., China)

D'ENTRECASTEAUX — Intercepted letters indicate D'ENTRECASTEAUX is on route for Indo-China and will be followed by MIN and CAP. PADARAN (Capt. on Staff Singapore 1503Z/8 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

Greek Shipping — Your 2032/6 and 1154/2. Policy for Greek shipping sailing for Japan is in my 1919/4 Instructions will be sent when these ships are allowed to sail. (D.T.D., 1207/8 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

Town Class Destroyers — Expect LANCASTER, MANSFIELD, STANLEY with CHESTERFIELD and SHERWOOD if defects completed to sail from St. John's Newfoundland on 12/11 (route) Further defects of BUXTON necessitates return to Halifax. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1129/8)

Air Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER — Your 2321/7. Search can if necessary be extended to 600 miles but as a working figure which can be guaranteed consider that these limits should be taken as 300 miles from coast. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1602/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Australia

STRATHEDEN — H.M.Transport, left Sydney 0714Z/7 for Melbourne (ACNB,0348Z/8)

CITY OF RAYVILLE — American, 5883 tons. Press report, explosion off Cape Otway, 90 miles S.W. of Melbourne. (D.S. 431)

CAMBRIDGE Mined — SS CAMBRIDGE sank 1300Z/7 6 miles east of Wilsons Promotory as result of explosion possibly mine. Of total crew of 55 only one not accounted for. Cargo. Re Publicity. (A.C.N.B. 1315Z/8)

MOST SECRET

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SS DELFINUS	Sunk by STURGEON 6/11 see Home Commands, Submarines.
MANSWALD	Admty. 2325/6.(1325/6? re German ship loading preparatory to sailing) Tampico latest report confirmed loading completed. My 2102/5/10 (2102/5/11?) refers. No signs of intention of MANSWALD early departure although apparently ready to sail at short notice Tampico is watching other ships and has requested report immediately any activities. (N.S.O. (I) Jamaica 0853/8)
BALKAN STORMARN	BALKAN, STORMARN left today 2100 hours destinations believed to be Bayonne. (Bilbao 1115/8, 2257/8)
ORINOCO	Admty. 1325/6. Tampico reports German ORINOCO receiving considerable quantity of provisions water but no sighs of departure any German ships.(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1558/8)
KLAUS SCHOKE LUISENBORNHOFEN	My 1145/9/10. KLAUSSCHOKE entered inner harbour 1600 G.M.T./7th and now at anchor and buoy between LUISENBORNHOFEN and Portuguese Destroyer DOURO. (V.C., Horta 1930/8)
ATLAS BELLONA	At Barcelona. Neptune Company, Bremen, sent message 4/11 to Agents at Valencia saying preparations made to speed up docking. (D.S. 431)
SAVONA	At Palermo. Expected to dry dock on 4/11. (A.I.) (D.S. 431)
Ships at Tampico	New York Italian paper of 6/11 persisted that the 4 German merchant ships at Tampico have fuelled and are preparing to sail. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa) (2231/8)

MOST SECRET

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ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA ODERO

Puerto Cabello reports TERESA ODERO taking fuel from BACININ MADRE. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1643/8)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

YALOU

Your 0718/7. (1) If possible request information of departure of YALOU from Saigon. If vessel reaches E.I. Station intend she should be sent into British Port for examination, if met. (C. in C., E.I. 0638Z/8 to Capt. O.S. Singapore)

KILISSI
COMPEIGNE
ESPIGUETTE
LIEUT. ST LOUBERT BIE

Following French ships now at Setubal should be sent in if intercepted KILISSI, COMPEIGNE, ESPIGUETTE, LIEUTENANT ST LOUBERT BIE) (F.O.C.N.P. 1730/8 to Western Patrol)

COMPEIGNE

It is reported that Captain of COMPEIGNE about to leave Lisbon for Morocco or Algeria is anxious to be intercepted when he will surrender his ship. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2248/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET

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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

S/M distress signal 55.57 N., 18.20 W., large explosion. (CORNISH CITY, 1022/8)

Submarines Reported

1125 — Attack enemy submarine in 55.57 N., 18.21 W 1125 (C. in C., W.A., 1144/8, to HAVELOCK HESPERUS)

1421 — Sighted U-Boat from position at 5 miles in position 56.01 N., 17.51 W., Am hunting. (HAVELOCK 1421/8) See Attacks.

1321 G.M.T. — 56° N., 17° 50' W., (A.F. message) (D.D.I.C. 1628/8)

1544 — 56.30 to 58° N., 18 to 21° W., indefinite position (D.S. 431)

Italian S/M's at Tangier — See North Atlantic

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian 1 may still be in Azores area.
German 1 was in 48° 5' N., 7° 22' W., at 1600/7 and may reach Lorient today or tonight.
2 may reach N.W. Approaches today from southward, one about 10 hours after the other.
No news of the one that was in 50° 57' N 17° 22' W., at 1840/6.
1 may be in area about 56° N., between 10° and 12° W.
1 in area 57.30 to 58.30 N., 18° to 20° W may be moving northwards.
1 in area 59° to 60° N., 17° to 20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1231/8)

Submarines Attacked

1446 — Sighted U-Boat 56.01 N., 17.51 W., Am hunting. (HAVELOCK 1421/8) Have attacked firm contact 56.00 N., 17.50 W., Still in contact (HAVELOCK 1446/8)

/My 1421....

MOST SECRET

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U-Boat Campaign

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

My 1421 and my 1446. Have attacked twice and fired 18 charges. Contact regained after second attack and then lost. Large bubble of air after first attack and a large patch of oil. HERPERUS detached at 1630 to collect 4 merchant ships in sight and escort them to North Channel. Am remaining in vicinity attack for 24 hours. 56° 00' N., 17° 50' W. (HAVELOCK 1653/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Deluge

At 2330/8 (D.C. 0004/9) At 1130/9 (D.C. 1206/9)
A 2330/9 (D.C. 2337/9)

Movements

FURIOUS
DIDO
NEW ZEALAND STAR
SOUTHAMPTON
FRANCONIA
CLAN FORBES
CLAN FRAZER
MANCHESTER

To sail in company. Dates. A/S escort. Future employment of MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON Code word "RIVAL" (A.C.N.S. (H) 0012/9 to C. in C., W.A., C. in C., Rosyth) DIDO to sail for Clyde on arrival of HOOD at Scapa 11/11. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1350/9 to A.C.O.S.) SOUTHAMPTON, alteration in port of departure (D.O.D.(H) 1456/9) SOUTHAMPTON intended to sail for Clyde p.m./9 SOUTHAMPTON 1301/9)

JAGUAR

Proceed to Portland (C in C WA 0839/9)

Greenock

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1301/9)

FORMIDABLE

On completion of trials to proceed to Eastern Meditn. via Cape. (5th S.L. 1329/9)

Northern Patrol

Trawler lines today (F.O.C.O.S. 1518/9)

EGLINTON

E.T.A. 20 C Buoy 2030/9 (EGLINTON 1530/9)

Western Channel

Night report (C. in C., W.A. 1537/9, 1915/9)

VAN DE ZAAN

Londonderry arrival 8/11 VAN DE ZAAN (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0900/9)

My 1410/7. Sail VAN DE ZAAN when ready. (C. in C., W.A. 1700/9 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

AURORA and IMPULSIVE may revert to 4 hours notice for steam and give night leave tonight.
WORCESTER and other ships not required for duty revert to 4 hours notice until 2000/9. My 1907/4 ships giving night leave are to be at 2 and a half hours notice by 0830. (C. in C., Nore 1049/9)

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys — Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1544/9)

ALYNBANK — E.T.A. 2300/9 (ALYNBANK 1550/9)

PEONY
BALVIA
GLOXINIA
HYACINTH — Admty. 1334/4 Route (C. in C., W.A. 1920/9)

HAVELOCK — My p.c.s. are 56° 7' N., 14° 55' W., 90° 12 knots (HAVELOCK 2101/9)

NEWCASTLE — Not to proceed out of harbour until it is safe for her to do so. (1st S.L. 1628/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

CAMELLIA — To await further orders at Liverpool after oiling (Capt. (D) Liverpool 2329/9)

WESTON — Keep steam at immediate notice for the night and be prepared to slip the cable and get under way if necessary to engage enemy aircraft. (C.in C., Rosyth 1723/9)

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER — Your 2321/8 (Have you any evidence of attack on Convoy H.X. 84 by Raider on November 5th?) No. (LEWES 0230/9 to Admty)

Leave Denmark Strait patrol so as to comply with Admiralty's 2313/8 routed through (position) thence to Clyde via Minches. (C. in C., H.F. 1211/9 to SOUTHAMPTON)

Have been unable to join HESPERUS due to N.W. gale. Andie set out of action. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL in company, intend to escort her to Liverpool. My position 55° 30' N., 7° 10' W., (HAVELOCK 1625/9)

/My present....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

My present intention is that the first battle cruiser to return to Scapa should relieve NELSON on patrol in the Iceland Faroes passage in company with an A.M.C. detailed by F.O.C.N.P. and that one DIDO class cruiser should patrol the Denmark Straits after fuelling at Hvalfiord. Unless further instructions are received the battle cruiser screened by four destroyers is to take over patrol at 1200 /13, the cruiser is to sail in company with the battle cruiser. (C. in C., H.F. 1246/9 to F.O.C. 1 B.C.S., F.O.C.N.P.)

ANTWERP
MALINES
ST HELIER
Special Service Brigade

Re special duty. (D.O.D. (H) 1245/9) See Operations Volume.

Dover Patrols

Night 9/10 Nov. (V.A.Dover 1410/9)

Harwich

A/P Patrols. Amendment to his 0920/9 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/9)

R.A. (D)

The following messages have been passed to you for information:-
1633/8* 2237/8.* 2313/8 ≠
(D.S.O. 1330/9 to R.A.(D)
* Operation COLLAR- former Most Secret distribution.
* Air activity from Norwegian Coast
≠ H.M.S.SOUTHAMPTON.

SS RUESKOL

Your 0001/9. (See Casualties) H.M.S. HONNINGSVAAG and one guard and be instructed to proceed to Jan Mayen Island and there

(a) Capture or sink the ship referred to in my 1735/5.

(b) Investigate the stranding of FRIDTJOF NANSEN (A.C.N.S. (H) 2106/9 to F.O.I/* Iceland)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.11.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

STURGEON's report. 2000 ton M.V. sunk.

STURGEON reports
(b) successful attacks as follows.
At 1010/3 on westbound 2000 ton M/V in position 58° 59' N. 10° 21' E. range 4000 yds. 3 torpedoes fired and one hit. Column of black smoke seen over ship which settled bow first and sank in 9 minutes.

S.S. DELFINUS sunk.

At 1456/6 on S.S. DELFINUS 1293 tons steering 150° in 58° 34' N. 05° 37' E. range 1000 yds.
2 torpedoes fired and 1 hit. Ship sank in 11 minutes.

(c) STURGEON deduced that all shipping for Norway proceeds in convoy or singly from Kattegat to Oslo Fiord. Ships hugging the coast north of Koster Island except during dark. Ships for West coast of Norway appear to cross Oslo Fiord at latitude 59 degs. 12' north and then proceed through Skaggerak very close to coast. (V.A.(S) 1459/9)

Positions and movements.

At 0700/10. (V.A.(S) 1719/9)

British Air Activity.

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Your 1143/8. Following is summary of air searches being arranged for today
Two Sunderlands from 60° 45' N. 14° 10' W. to coast of Iceland in 16° 45' West.
Hudson aircraft to search area between above patrol and Butt of Lewis.
Denmark Strait will be covered as far as possible by Battle aircraft from Iceland.
If possible an additional Sunderland will be sent to Reykjavik.
(D.C. 0230/9 to C.in C. H.F.)

Air Searches for 9/11.

My 1809/8 and 0620/9. First Sunderland is flying but will probably have to land in Iceland second Sunderland unlikely to be able to take off. Parallel track search and W 2 postponed owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0800/9)

All S A patrols postponed owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0810/9).

My 0800/9 First Sunderland returning Sollum Voe, Second Sunderland is flying and has been ordered to land Reykjavik in daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 1020/9).

/ My 0800/9. .....

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

My 0800/9.
Parallel track search and W 2 cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1302/9.)

No anti-invasion patrols flown A.M. today and those for P.M. now cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1346/9)

Patrol HOOKOS will not be flown tonight.
(C.in C. Nore 1636/9).

S/M bombing restrictions.

Ops..914 9/11. Institute submarine bombing restrictions Forth sanctuary from 0830/10 to 1530/10 area thirty from 0800 to 1800 daily commencing 10/11 area twenty five miles of position 090° Eddystone four miles from 0730/10 to 1700/10.
(H.Q.C.C. 1600/9).

Night decoy

Your 1929/8. This idea was considered before my proposals were forwarded but was not thought practicable in view of the large difference between the area of the flow and that of wide firth.
I am however hampered by lack of technical knowledge. I suggest A.M. representative should visit Scapa to view the actual position before details are worked out.
(A.C.O.S. 2003/9 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

NALON (Bombed 6/11)

NALON with valuable cargo was bombed abandoned at 1145/9. Estimated approx. position at 1200/9 063° 50' N. 015° 00' W. When returning to harbour endeavour locate this vessel. (C.in C. W.A. 0140/9 to VESPER, VENOMOUS, WINDON.

Convoy "Arena" (F.S.30)

Convoy Arena shadowed by one enemy aircraft. 52° 0' N. 1° 14' E. (LOWESTOFT 0953/9, WIDGEON 0956/9).

Convoy ARENA is being attacked 51° 45' N. 1° 27' E. (LOWESTOFT 1238/9)

EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

53° 50' N. 14° 01' W. EMPRESS OF JAPAN aircraft returning. (Scapa W/T 1020/9 T.O.R. 1124)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of S.S. EMPRESS OF JAPAN in 53° 51' N. 14° 28'W. at 1000/9 bound for Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1040/9 to SEAEAN, MARAUDER)

/ Following has been ....

MOST SECRET.

9.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Following has been received.
53° 54' N. 14° 14' W.
Bombed EMPRESS OF JAPAN one engine out of commission 0945/9. (Valencia Radio 1050/9.)

54° 05' N. 13° 34' W. EMPRESS OF JAPAN aircraft returned but now gone.
(EMPRESS OF JAPAN 1050/9)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of S.S. EMPRESS OF JAPAN in 53° 54' N. 14° 14' W. at 1044/9. Tug SEAMAN despatched from Campbeltown tug MARAUDER will also sail when ready for sea. Acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1050/9 to Tug ST. OLAVES)

My 1040/9 amend position given to read 53° 54' N. 14° 14' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1105/9 to SEAMAN, MARAUDER).

B Report of Whitley T/502
C Search for M.V. MALON

Before reaching approx. position received message at 115 from Group to proceed to 53° 51' N. 14° 58' W. to locate EMPRESS OF JAPAN. Failed to locate her after searching vicinity from 1340 to 1430.
At 1324 sighted French M.V. DJEMBE NLSB 2008 CO 330 12 kts.

Cancel my 1050/9 Proceed to Kirkwall.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1932/9 to Tug ST. OLAVES)

B Report of JOE/336
C Locate and escort EMPRESS OF JAPAN.
Proceeded to given position and searched without result area within radius of 15 miles in poor visibility. At 1529 sighted 1 empty motor boat in position NLBY 0430 at 1612 sighted 2 dr 175 in position NLBY 1256 CO 100 30 kts at 1632 sighted 1 dr and 1 large MV 3 funnels 2 masts black hull buff superstructure and funnels about 30000 ton presumed to be EMPRESS OF JAPAN in position NLDR 0030, CO approx 100 degs 15 to 18 kts. In spite of continuous flashing by A/C of correct recognition signals to both MV and DR the EMPRESS opened fire on A/C AND fired at least five shots. Leading A/C of the patrol then fired a verey light. At 1706 sighted 1 MV French about 20000 tons in position NLDQ 0206 CO 080 degs 12 kts grey hull, 3 buff funnels 2 masts.
(Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1950/9).

/Details of damage by bombs and m.g. bullets.

.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

Details of damage by bombs and M.G. bullets

MEMBERS OF JAPAN arrived Gourock 1420/10 no casualties. At 0920/9 attacked by bomber in 53° 54' N. 14° 28' W. 1020/9 aircraft returned 1030/9 Hull damage unknown. Vessels armament one 3" L.A. several rifles and rockets. (F.S.T.O. Clyde 1530/10).

LUDLOW.

Following has been read. Enemy aircraft bombing 130 degrees Fanad Head 17. (LUDLOW 1125/9)

Convoy F.N. 30
S.S. SCOTTISH HEATHER damaged.
VANITY damages a/c.

Enemy A/C are bombing convoy AGENT position 51° 48' N. 1° 31' E. (F.N. Convoy 1248/9).

My 1248 no hits 1 D0215 damaged by gunfire. (F.N. Convoy 1302/9)

Enemy A/C bombing convoy AGENT in 51° 46' N. 1° 29' E. (F.N. Convoy 1316/9).

Further attack by 2 D O 215's at 1327 one believed shot down in 051° 50' North 001° 38' East. (VANITY 1357/9).

Convoy attacked by Dornier 215 at 1645 hours in 52° 18' N. 2° 0' E. Anson then at head of convoy immediately turned to attack enemy aircraft damage not known. No damage to Anson. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2044/9.)

Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER arrived in F N 30 from Sheerness to Grangemouth reports following damage from near misses during bombing attack on 9/11.

Vessel on Admiralty Charter and Master considers repairs and possibly docking necessary before proceeding overseas. SCOTTISH HEATHER will proceed from Methil to Grangemouth A.M./12 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1523/11)

Convoy "Material"

Convoy MATERIAL is being shadowed by one Enemy Aircraft in position. 57° 10' N. 1° 50' W. (PONEY 1313/9).

VINGALAND (attacked 9/11)

VINGALAND (Swedish 2734 tons) in convoy H.K. 04 was bombed 1022/8 and abandoned heavily on fire (HESPERUS 1100/9).

SOUTHERN GEM.

Shadowed by one enemy aircraft course my position 150 Aberdeen 8 miles 4 knots. (SOUTHERN GEM 1322/9).

SHELL-BRIT II.

Oil tanker SHELL-BRIT II struck by enemy bomb ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

SHELL-BURT II

bomb at 1740/9 when alongside Cleeveland Wharf Shoreham Harbour. Damage. Casualties. Ship unable to steam. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1522/11)

Note: Air Min. D.S. states tanker in harbour at Southwick, Sussex damaged by oil bomb at 1743/9. Presumably same as above.

Mining.

BLYTH.

Blyth closed divert ships for Blyth to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 0158/9 to VEGA)

Blyth Open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1244/9)

Unexplained explosions.

Coastguard Clacton reports 0506 several white flashes and explosions south distant also heard by Walton and Naze lookout. 0510 Hrds. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0513/9).

Minelaying U-boat.

Ship report plot from Cromarty R.A.F. C H L station indicates possible minelaying U-Boat at 0610. 094 degs. 2.1/4 miles from South Sutor F W S S. Request daylight aircraft search and A/S craft be sent. None available locally. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0621/9 to C.in C. Rosyth) Passed to V.A. (S)

Your 0621/9 regret no A/S vessels available in Rosyth Command and that weather does not permit aircraft to take off. (C.in C. Rosyth 0816/9).

Thames Estuary.

Group Officer Ship "HERO" reports 1 red mine detonated by LL Trawler at 2305/8 040° S.W. Swin L.V. 1 mile. (Capt. M/S 0854/9)

S.S. BALTRADER.

BALTRADER mined in 051° 40' 45" N. 001° 18' 20" E. (SUN VIII standing by wreck. Survivors in EVENING PRIMROSE. Two missing. (WOOLSTON 1426/9).

S.S. BALTRADER in F S 30 sunk by mine approximately one and three quarter N.N.E. magnetic from East Barrow Light Vessel at about 1430/today. 27 Survivors landed at Southend by drifter EVENING PROMISE. Believed one dead and one injured are on board S.S. PITWINE also in F S 30 but arrival not yet reported. (C.in C. Nore 2235/9)

Falmouth.

Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1436/9).

/ Plymouth
ELK damaged. .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Plymouth
HLK damaged.

Since my 1718/8 mine detonated by F.S. Poulmic 300 degrees 11 cables breakwater light. Trawler HLK damaged 0840/8 by explosion 1/2 cable off in vicinity Western Gate vessel. Five mines exploded spontaneously 0015/7 Penlee Point 202 degrees 2½ cables. 0445/7 178 degrees Picklecombe Fort 2 miles. 1819/7 121 degrees Draystone Buoy 5.1 cables 1827/7 Rame Head 189 degrees 1.5 miles. 0842/9 Picklecombe 107 degrees 300 yards on impact 138 degrees Penlee Point 6 cables. Positions approximate. (C.in C. W.A. 1536/9.)

South Foreland.

Routine sweeps to noon Saturday. One mine and two cutters found 2 miles 114° South Foreland. (V.A. Dover 1553/9).

Operations S.N.43.
S.N.45.

Propose to sail at 1715/11 and lay as follows:- S N 43, S N 45 (Positions) starting S N 43 at 0930 and finishing S N 45 at 1615/12. (R.A.M.L. 1711/9).

Morecambe Bay.

Ports of Fleetwood, Lancaster and Heysham closed owing to suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1750/9).

Rosyth.

My 1137/8. 50% Oropesa search #111 commence Sunday 10th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1821/9).

Milford Haven.

Two Ground Mines self detonated close together in approximate position 085° Great Castle Head 4-1/2 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1856/9).

S.S.BEAL.

S.S. BEAL reports having struck mine in position unknown. Tug has been sent. Vessel is entering Tees and Tyne Wharf. (F.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2027/9).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

BOYDS.

My 0621/9 (re vessel sighted) Vessel reported now found to be fishing drifter BOYDS. Have ordered her to Invergordon. Cancel request for aircraft and A/S assistance. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0805/9).

MINERVA.

Following received from Humber Radio intercepted at 1129 G.M.T. on 500 kc/s from Nord Dutch radio begins:- To MINERVA 2 tugs will leave for you at 1500 German summer time and will meet you during afternoon. Ends. (F.O. Humber 1240/9)

Intelligence of ships.

A Following from same source as my 1220/31/8.
1. At Kiel 25/10 one KOLN Cruiser, possibly other ships.
4/11 BISMARCK in harbour. This ship was referred to erroneously in paragraph one (c) of my 1620/17 as BLEUCHER Class.
At Bremerhaven 25/10 both BREMEN and EUROPA in harbour. Large guns now removed and possibly some A.A. guns. BREMEN had steam up.
On 3rd both vessels had left, one being sighted Brunsbuttel 4th.
At Wegesack Works 12 U-Boats on stocks and two alongside fitting out.
At Bremen construction of Cruiser continues but appears far from completion. Two destroyers on stocks and two at fitting out quay ahead of Cruiser. One Destroyer in floating dock and one ready but not delivered in free harbour (Crew aboard but no flag flying).
(N.A. Stockholm 1541/9).

Unidentified vessel.

Following remains unidentified. From Sumburgh 1 small slow vessel bearing 295° 10 miles course 165° speed 10 knots at 2009.
(A.C.O.S. 1504/9).

Surface unit. S.W. of Ekersund.

By D/F at 1720/9. Position of unknown enemy surface unit probably destroyer or larger vessel was 58° N. 4° 30' E.
Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1758/9).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FRIDTJOF NANSEN
(see also Operations, S.S. BOSKOL)

Norwegian Fishery Protection Vessel FRIDTJOF NANSEN reports she has run aground no position or details unable to make further contact with her. Unless further information is received intend sending HONNINGSVAAG to investigate as soon as she returns to Reykjavik. (F.O. Iceland 001/9).

S.S. DIONI.

Received 0815 G.M.T. de DIONI timed 0800 G.M.T. begins, Now she lies on the dry mud and rocks in position 51° 42' 50" N. 5° 6' 15" W. extensive damage all along bottom and stern frame. Not yet any assistance offered. (Burnham-on-Sea, T.H.I. 0920/9).

S.S. RIDLEY.

Following received. S.O.S. S/S RIDLEY 340 miles 320° off St. Vincent on fire require immediate assistance. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0427/9)

HANSUSE
DUKE OF ARGYLL

Collision reported between H.M.Trawler "HANSUSE" and S.S. "DUKE OF ARGYLL" damage slight. HANSUSE was displaying minesweeping signals. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 1501/9).

WIVERN

Your 1352/8 Board of Enquiry already ordered and sitting today.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0920/9.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.X. 87	H.X. 87 including BHX.86, HX.88 and SC.12. Arrange to sail as follows, confirmation will follow. Route. HX.88 and SC.12 are to be sailed at such times as to be 20 miles astern and 225 miles ahead respectively of HX 87 when passing through position A. Cancel previous routes promulgated. (D.T.D. 1654/9.)
O.B.Convoys	O.B.Convoys are to be sailed as follows unless instructions to the contrary are received. O.B. 242 11th, O.B. 243,12th, O.B. 244 17th, O.B. 245 and 246 18th, Convoy O.G. 46 to be sailed on 19th Nov. (D.T.D. 1827/9)
O.B.242 O.B.243	My 1827/9, O.B. 242 and 243 will disperse as usual and ships should be routed to destinations accordingly. Further signal will be made regarding O.B. 244,245 and 246. (D.T.D., 2313/9) Orders to O.B. 242 (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1615/9)
H.X. 84	Position, course and speed of Commodore and 5 ships of convoy H.X. 84 at 1130/9 056° 09' N., 014° 17' W., course 090° 6 knots. Convoy still widely scattered. Ship attacked at 1022/8 was Swedish ship VINGALAND which was bombed and abandoned heavily on fire. (HESPERUS, 1100/9) Raider attack. Reports by PACIFIC ENTERPRISE and CORDELIA (see America & West Indoes) FLEUR DE LYS to join HESPERUS with H.X. 84 position (C. in C., W.A. 1715/9) not met. My position 56.07 N., 12.29 W. (FLEUR DE LYS Unable to join HESPERUS due to N.W. gale Asdic set out of action. DUCHESS OF ATHOL in company. Position. (HAVELOCK, 1625/9)
B.H.X. 86	To be sailed to Halifax independently and routed towards American Coast. (D.T.D. 1653/9) Suspicious behavior of certain ships. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/9) See America and West Indies.
B.H.X. 87	As ships of B.H.X. 87 were not issued with envelope C they have no Route to follow in the event of losing Convoy or scattering. Directions. (N.O.I.C. Halifax to LACONIA 1107/9)

MOST SECRET

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	**Shipping.**
O.G. 45	Escorted by VIDETTE. Route. SALOPIAN leaves O.G. 45 p.m/9 (F.O.C.N.A., 1200/9)
EKHAREN	Swedish, left O.B. 240 in suspicious circumstances. If met to be reported. (C. in C., W.A., 1917/9)
TORONTO CITY	Cancel my 1630/5. To be strengthened against ice before proceeding to St. John's. (D.N.M.S., 1303/9 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)
PASTEUR	Sailed 1800/9 from Gibraltar for Liverpool. Route. (F.O.C.N.A., 1812/9)
S.C. 11.	Draft sailing telegram. Escort ENCHANTRESS (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1719/9)
H.X. 81.	36 hours late at R.V., scattered by heavy gales. (D.T.D. 1531/9)
Independent Ships	Danger of air attack. Recommending adequate A/A armament and trained guns crews. (C. in C., W.A., 1913/9 to Admty.)
Escort Groups	Order of sailing O.B. 242- O.B. 246 and O.G. 46. (C. in C., W.A., 2140/9)
Independent Routes	Homeward bound fast independent ships should be routed so as to cross 18° W., between 55° N and 57° N. A proportion of ships from West Atlantic ports should be routed further North and thence North of Rockall. (D.T.D. 1255/9 to C. in C's A.W.I., S.A., etc.)
Convoy Formation	Decided that columns in ocean convoys formed on a broad front are to be 5 cables apart on account of the much smaller percentage of hits that may be expected from the torpedoes of a U-Boat in the ideal firing position. N.C.S.Os at Assembly Ports to explain to Masters the reason and urge them not to give way to natural tendancy to close in at night which is the time when the increased distance apart is most necessary. (D.T.D. 2311/9)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Libreville
BOUGAINVILLE
Abandoned

French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and DOMINE entered Libreville this afternoon after issue of ultimatum and reports French sloop BOUGAINVILLE set on fire and abandoned. CAP DES PALMES assisting to rescue survivors. (C.S.I. 1841A/9)

Enemy Units

At 1845/5 fishing steamer MACHADO was boarded by a submarine of unknown nationality but whose crew spoke French in 37° 58' N., 9° 50' W.
At 1800/8 a destroyer of unknown nationality passed Cape Saint Vincent proceeding south with a French Cargoe vessel.
Source A.O (Consul-Gen., Lisbon 2032/9)

Sinking of
PONCELET

Your 1032/8 and my 0821A/8.
French submarine PONCELET reported by DEVONSHIRE's Walrus anchored in Port Gentil at 0700/7. Log indicates submarine left harbour 0800/7 and remained submerged most of forenoon, sighted MILFORD, 1248, French Submarine PONCELET heard Asdic transmission 3 minutes before firing. Second torpedo was fired but stuck in tube. Submarine sank in position 000° 04' S. 009° 02' E. (C.S.I. 1126A/9 to Admty.)

At what distance was MILFORD from shore when an underwater explosion was heard at 1423. (C.N.S. to C.S.I., 2345/9)

North Atlantic

RENOWN
ARGUS
DESPATCH
NEWCASTLE

Route. E.T.A. Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1200/9)

TRIUMPH

Route to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9)

KINGSTON TOPAZ

Arrives Gibraltar 13/11 from patrol off Lisbon. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9)

CILICIA

Patrol area, to arrive Gibraltar 0730/12 (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9)

/DOMINE.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

DOMLINE Intercepted	Spanish, Ministry of Marine stated stopped by Brit. trawler 15 miles out of Cadiz 7/11 and mails for Canary Islands removed. Request instructions what to reply. (Madrid 1835/9 to Admty.)
URSULA } UTMOST }	Re defects, and dates of completion. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/9)
UPRIGHT	E.T.A. p.m/9 and will be sent on patrol when ready. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/9. Arrived 2030/9 escorted by ARCTIC RANGER. (S.O.I. Gib., 2054/9)
Tangier	All destroyers away on escort duties from 10/11 and watch on Tangier reduced to one trawler. Presumed Spanish territorial waters are still to be respected. (F.O.C.N.A., 1120/9)
Italian S/M's Tangier	Report of interview with M. of Marine. Convinced neither Minister nor Spanish Navy will be party to any trick. He did not agree with our contention that to repair damage impeding diving would be to misuse fighting force. (Madrid, 1830/9)
Operation	Your 0901/7 and my 1301/8. Admty and Air Ministry in agreement that course (a) must be employed.(D.N.A.D. to S.O.Force H 1759/9)

South Atlantic

I.C.S.	My 1544/8 and C. in C., S.A. 1745/8. E.T.A. 1130/10 (F.O.I.C.S. 1531A/9)
CORNWALL. PRETORIA CASTLE	PRETORIA CASTLE not seen. My position at noon/9. (CORNWALL 1112N/9) Your 1112N/9. My position course and speed, noon/9. (PRETORIA CASTLE 1550N/9)
ROYAL SOVEREIGN	My 2125/5. Sailing to Halifax to be deferred. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 2326/9)

/? CUBA.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

? CUBA — Your 2329/8 and my 1955/8. Should crew and Merchant Navy passengers be offered opportunity to serve in Allied ships in accordance with S.O.S. for Colonies Tel No 636 to Gov. Sierra Leone. It is possible that some of Naval or Army personnel may ask to serve with British but not directly under de Gaulle. Can this be accepted. Fear response will be small as men are threatened by Officers. (C.in C., S.A. 1929/9)

THURSO BANK SOLOY — Due Capetown 4/11 from U.K. and Durban 4/11 from Gibraltar, both not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0945B/9)

Mediterranean

Movements — Summary No 167 (C. in C., Med., 0303/9)

A.S. 5. — Convoy A.S. 5. leaves Piraeus p.m./10 for Port Said. Route. (C. in C., Med. 0303/9)

C.S. 18. MANCHESTER — Pass Admty. 1633/8 addressed C. in C., Med and Force H., to C.S. 18 (D.O.D.(H) 1020/9 to MANCHESTER) Admty. 1633/8. The flag of C.S. 18 will be flown in MANCHESTER. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med and Force H 1906/9)

U-Boat Report — See U-Boat Campaign.

Convoys. Malta — Situation re further convoys has become greatly complicated for several reasons. F.O.I/c Malta is sending you now copy of proposals I have made to D. of S.T. These proposals would solve present problem but are dependant on your approval to bring 3 ships with a minimum speed of 16 knots here during operation "Collar" If you are prepared to do this, request D. of S.T. may be informed immediately. (Govr. Malta to C. in C., Med. 1307/9 and to D. of S.T. 1820/9)

Trapani — Air reconnaissance on North Sicilian ports shows 3 destroyers in Trapani. (V.A.Malta, 1455/9)

/Aircraft Crews....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Aircraft Crews

C. in C. Med's 1057/8. Please send any surplus Wellington crews to Gibraltar. We will arrange homeward passage from there We would employ them to fly additional Wellingtons to M.E. (Air Min. to H.C., Malta, 1720/9)

Suda Bay Defences

Requirements for (W.O. to C. in C., M.E. 2230/9)

Policy

Your 1749/5 paragraph 4. The denial from Vichy has been available to us for some time but our information from other sources does not support it entirely. No reply has been received by H.M.G. to specific enquiry as to where Vichy Government stands whilst we know Petain and Laval have publicly indicated their intention of concluding an agreement to collaborate with Hitler, thus doing injury to us, and aiming to support Hitler's plan of a "so-called" new order in Europe. H.M.G. must determine their action in the light of these facts. (1st S.L. 0046/9 to C. in C., Med.)

Greek Situation

My 1229/8.
(e) Whole of coast North of Acheron river is clear of Greek troops, (d) and (e) Re suitable objectives for bombardment.
(f) British Air Commodore asks whether any co-operation from land based aircraft is possible if you bombard Italian right flank.
(g) Greeks worried at heavy movements between Italy and Albania. Urgency of doing everything possible to interfere Italian line of communications.
(h) Greek N.A. in Berlin reports that Italian N.A. Berlin has said that Italian scheme of operations envisages occupation of coast opposite Corfu as a first phase Second phase will be occupation of Corfu and organization of a protected base in Straits to ensure supplies to Army. (N.A. Athens, 1623/9 to C. in C., Med.)

Air Reconnaissance

Air recon. of Sicilian ports.
Palermo, eight destroyers one merchant vessels of 8,000 tons one merchant vessel of 2,000 tons.
Messina, seven destroyers, three large submarines, four merchant vessels of 6,000 tons each, one liner believed to be REX
Augusta, two cruisers CONDOTTIERI class five destroyers. (V.A.Malta, 1753/9)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation "Collar"

Your 1231/8. Realised that the number of personnel to be embarked is large but the urgency of these reinforcements is such that the difficulties must be accepted. None of the men can be embarked in NEW ZEALAND STAR.
F.O.Force (H) will be arranging the allocation of personnel ex FRANCONIA to ships going to Alexandria.
Admty. 1633/8 has been passed to you.
(D.O.D. (F) 1859/9 amended 2358/9)

M.N.B.D.O.

M.N.B.D.O. is at present dispersed for coast defence in U.K. It could be re-assembled in about 5 weeks and might be made available in Middle East if you forsee any useful purpose for it. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. 1941/9 to C. in C., Med.)

East Indies

Aden. Policy

Your 0348/4. Share your view, but resources do not permit further reduction for this purpose expense other theatres M.E., (Details of support given to Greece) View still held that major land threat Aden unlikely to materialise. (C. in C's., M.E., to C. in C., E.I., 1114/9)

Assab Bombed

Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/9. 1 Blenheim 8 Sqdn. armed reconnaissance Assab attacked warehouses and store sheds, 0515 hours. Photographs show one bomb near miss small square building No fighters. 1 extra ship 6000 tons amongst islands total now 6. 2 Blenheim IV'B 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties 10/11. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden no T.O.O./9)

French Ships

My 0908/7, re French ships to be detained for examination. Add French sloop D'ENCASTREUX, MIN and CAP PADARAN. (C. in C., E.I. 07342/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

China

LIVATHO

Admty. 1307/8. LIVATHO will bring back cargo badly needed. French have guaranteed not to detain ship.
Request decision as ship is being held up at Singapore. (C. in C., China, 05152/9 to Admty.)

Indo-China Export Licenses Refused LIVATHO

As from 15/11 export license will be refused for all goods shipped to Indo-China from U.K. and Colonial ports. Request you ensure no British or Allied ships are in Indo-China ports on above date in view of liklihood of reprisals. Your 0441/6. In view of above, considered undesirable that LIVATHO should be allowed to proceed to Saigon. (Hd. of M. 2357/9)

Haiphong

Your 0756/8. No concentration of transports at Haiphong Details of transport traffic (Vice Consul Haiphong, to C.O.I.C. Singapore, 07232/9) Passed to Admty. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 16392/9).

N.E.I. Navy

My 0315/7. Dutch Naval C. in C., takes instructions from Governor General and not from London. Suggest Dutch Govt. in London instruct Govr. Gen. to permit discussion provided no diplomatic commitments involved. (C. in C., China 1213/2/9 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

Raider Attack on H.X. 84

British ships PACIFIC ENTERPRISE and CORDELIA both from convoy H.X. 84 arrived here undamaged today. Former has now left for Halifax.
Master of PACIFIC ENTERPRISE convinced raider is German Armoured Ship ADMIRAL SCHEER Class but some officers and men say raider had funnel same as RESOLUTION and a few that there was a light cruiser in addition.
Master of CORDELIA admits possibility of two raiders in view of remarkably swift movement but definite about tripod raking and with large fore top.
Other special points. About 9 ships are thought to have been fired on.
(N.C.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 2230/9 to Admty)

/PRINCE ROBERT.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

PRINCE ROBERT

My 1731/30. Proceed into Talcahuano (date) Orders for patrol, and instructions for BISHOPDALE (C. in C., A.W.I., 1722/9)

Convoy
B.H.X. 86

Following ships forming port wing column of B.H.X. parted company from convoy during 180° turn at 0130 Q on 6th/11. HOLMPARK, BUESTEN and SOENJIT. Ships have been ordered by W/T to return to Bermuda or Halifax, 4th ocean escort MONTCLARE reports TASSO leading ship of column behavior quite inexcusable. Visibility two miles. Suggst investigation on arrival of ships in harbour. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/9 to Admty, etc.)

Australia

CAMBRIDE
CITY OF RAYVILLE
suspected
minelaying

CAMBRIDE sank off Wilson's promotory night 7-8/11 CITY OF RAYVILLE sank off Cape Otway night 8-9/11. Minelaying suspected. Bass Strait closed to shipping (A.C.N.B.Melbourne, 0501Z/9 to C. in C., S.A.) A.C.N.B. 1315/8. Request particulars regarding loss of CAMBRIDGE be communicated Lloyd's, London. (A.C.N.B., 1847/Z/9)

New Zealand

Greek Shipping

Your 1919/4 (re Greek ships in Japanese Waters) Following received from Suva, (begins) Telegram from Livanos New York to Nauru quotes that London instructs AXIOS (Greek) and EVINOS (Greek) are to proceed towards Colombo (ends) Telegram is being held pending your decision. (S.O.I., Wellington, 0044/9 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

AEQUITAS

My 1806/26. H.M.G. having approved movement of AEQUITAS to Rio de Janeiro with Brazilian officer on board to prevent irregularities. I will report when vessel sails. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1535/9)

ANTARKTIS

2- 10 ton lorries arrived with provisions which are being loaded. (Acting consul, Vigo, 1846/9) (D.D.I.C. 0254/10 to F.O.C.N.A

NORDERNEY

Following from Navy Dept. NORDERNEY loading 1,000 tons of coal at Para. Crew of 14 men seven officers included five German Officers and eight men who came from Santos. Opinion in Brazil is that her departure may be soon. (N.A.Washington, 1255/9)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA ODERO

My 1648/8. Cáracas reports fuel for harbour use only and all Italian ships at Puerto Cabello interned. (S.O.I., Kingston 2028/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

CYPRUS — SSSS Submarine or struck a mine 36.21 N., 7.38 W., CYPRUS. (Gibraltar W/T no T.O.00 recd. 0816/9) S/M on surface bearing 220° 6 miles steering S.E., My p.c.s. 36.21 N., 7.34 W., 052, 8 knots. (CYPRUS 0803/9) (C. in C., W.A. 0807/9) SSSS received addressed to all stations via Lands End 36.21 N., 7.38 W., CYPRUS (C. in C., W.A., to Admty. 0700/9, recd. 0848)

U-Boat Tactics — Admty 2027/14/10. Information now received confirms conclusion drawn. Emphasises necessity for (a) utmost vigilance of night look outs (b) Fitting of A.S.V. in escort ships. (c) Improving hydrophone performance of our asdics. Action re (b) and (c) being taken (D.A.S.W. to C. in C., W.A. 1516/9)
Escort vessels in convoys attacked by U-boats to forward a track chart to D.A.S.W. (C. in C., W.A., 1042/9)

Submarines Reported

0139 — 56° to 58° N., 17° to 21° W., position very indefinite (D.S. 431)

0218 — W. of Ireland in about 52° N., Italian U/B position indefinite (D.S. 431)

1206 — 58° to 59° N., 25° W., very indefinite (D.S. 432)

1237 — 55.30 N., to 56.30 N., 17° to 21° W., position indefinite (D.S. 432)

Ushant — A/C X/812 now reports that at 1945/9/11 he observed a small vessel possibly a submarine 045/Ushant/15 miles. He flashed the letter of the period many times but received no reply. As A/C was outward bound for Lorient, pilot decided not to waste bombs on uncertain secondary target. (St. Eval, 1000/10 to 15 group)

Mediterranean

One enemy U-Boat on surface in 36.05 N., 13.44 E., dived on being sighted by A/C at 0934 zone minus 2. (V.A.Malta 1039/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian 1 may be in area 50° to 51° N., 15° to 17° West, proceeding to Bordeaux.
1 may still be in Azores area.
German 1 may be in area 53° to 54° N., 16° to 18° W. proceeding to Lorient.
1 was in 56° N., 17° 50' W.; at 1446/8.
1 was in area 56° to 58° N., 17° to 21° W at 0139/9
2 more in N.W. Approached or farther W. whereabouts unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1244/9)

Your attack sounded most promising. Round up what you can. You will probably be required for escort duties on 15/11. (C in CWA, (1922/9 to HAVELOCK)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Shetland Command Abolished.

As from the 10/11, the Shetland Command will be abolished and Flag Officer Commanding, Orkney, will resume the functions of Flag Officer Commanding Orkney and Shetland (short title A.C.O.S.) as they were before the Shetland Command came into being.

The War Office are appointing an officer in local command of the Army units in the Shetlands who will take executive control of all defence operations in the Shetlands in event of hostile action.

The administrative channels of communication are under consideration by the War Office and will be promulgated.
(D. of L.D.1427/10).

KILISSI.

(French, 3723 Tons). My 1730/8. If escorted, KILISSI is not to be intercepted (F.O.C.N.P. 2150/10 to Western Patrol).

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE.

At 1130/10 (D.C.1201/10). At 1800/10. (D.C.1842/10). At 2330/10. (D.C.2355/10).

Rosyth A/A Defences.

C.in C. Rosyth 1637/5. Request consideration to provision of Guns for Site R.N.G.8 if possible from December allocation. If Rosyth used by Main Units before R.N.G.8 permanently filled, request that Mobile Section fitted R.D.G. may be temporarily provided.
(D. of L.D.1617/10 to Air Ministry).

Scapa Defences.

Progress Report on 10/11. (R.A.Scapa 2015/10 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

WINDSOR. VESPER. VENOMOUS.	If EMPRESS OF JAPAN does not need assistance after passing Altacarry, you are then to leave her and proceed to Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A.0030/10 to WINDSOR).
RHODODENDRON.	On arrival at Bar Light Vessel, set watch to Oiler WAR PATHAN at Buoy in 125° Rock Ferry Pier Head Light 6 cables and remain there after oiling. (Capt: D. Liverpool 0254/10 to RHODODENDRON).
SIKH SOMALI EXMOOR PYTCHLEY DOUGLAS VIMY.	Unless other instructions received intend (a) SIKH relieve SOMALI in HOOD screen allowing SOMALI to boiler clean as arranged. (b) EXMOOR and PYTCHLEY proceed to Scapa on arrival Faroes. Return escort for ADDA to be provided by DOUGLAS and VIMY or other destroyers in the vicinity of Faroes as convenient. (F.O.C. D.F. H.F. 1115/10 to C.in C. H.F.)
Northern Patrol Lines.	Orders for alteration of Lines on 21/11. (F.O.C.N.P. 1510/9 to Northern Patrol).
Orkneys.	Estimated positions at 2000/10. (A.C.O.S. 1539/10).
CURACOA.	Leave Convoy on arrival in Pentland Firth and enter Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1604/10 to CURACOA).
Nore and Harwich.	Movements Summary. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1704/10 to GUILLEMOT).
LETITIA.	C.in C. H.F. 1246/9. LETITIA ready to sail from Clyde when ordered. (F.O.C.N.P. 1930/10 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Mistaken Report of Raider.

Warship Raider in 40° 16'N., 18° 20'W. Unknown Ship. (Scapa W/T Recd. 0950/10) SALOPIAN is in 40° 18' 30" N., 18° 19'W. at 0950, approaching Merchant Ship. (SALOPIAN 0950/10 to V.A.N.P) Estimate this may be SALOPIAN. (F.O.C.N.A. 1034/10 to Adty). Chase Raider. (D.C.1115/10 to RENOWN) Cancel 1115/10. (V.C.N.S. 1133/10 to RENOWN) Cancel RRRR 0950 (D.C.1142 and 1143/10).

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

MAORI, KEPPEL, BEAGLE sailed from Skaale Fiord to R/V with C.in C. H.F. in 62° 46'N., 11° 58'W., at 1200/11. (MAORI 1600/10 to R.A.D).

Norwegian SOLFONN (9925 Tons) reports that at 1730/5 Convoy was attacked by German Raider of SCHEER class in 52° 44'N., 32° 14'W., when Convoy dispersed. It was noted that an unkno M/V was continually in sight of Convoy from 1200/5 until Raider appeared. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1756/10 to Adty).

My position 58° 32'N., 11° 25'W., course 80° , speed 15 knots. MATABELE and ELECTRA in company.

BONAVENTURE and MASHONA detached to search for survivors. REPULSE swept through 55° N., 30'W., 56°N, 32° W, 60°N, 27°W. (REPULSE 1800/10 to C.in C. H.F).

Further to my 1756. Convoy HX84, 36 ships approx; 9 columns of 4 ships. SOLFONN was rear ship of Seventh column number 74,following is brief description of events. At 1700 dusk falling commodore drew attention to bearing 350°, course of convoy 067°. At 1710 course of convoy was altered to 40° to starboard. During turn fire was opened by raider hull down bearing 353°. Commodore and ships in port column opened fire at once and smoke screen was laid. Convoy scattered by signal. S.S. BEAVERBROOK was in company with SOLFONN until 2030 approx. when she was fired on and altered course. Six ships seen to be hit,

/none

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd).

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

none actually seen to sink. Firing continued in moonlight until 2300. No ships were in sight at daybreak of 6th November. The unknown merchant ship disappeared in direction of raider at approx: 1600. Details of this ship not known yet. Raider which remained hull down appeared to be ADMIRAL SCHEER or Nurnberg Class. No Aircraft seen or heard. No information of size of splashes owing to inexperienc of 1st officer. Speed of SOLFONN 9 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2012/10 to Adty).

Convoy S.L.53 with ARAWA and H.G.46 with WELLINGTON now concentrated. At 2359/9 Convoys were in position 042° 23' N., 020° 56'W course 350 degrees 5 knots. RENOWN DERBYSHIRE CAMITO covering. Have ordered these 2 convoys to remain concentrated unless otherwise and proceed in company to position D.050° 00'N.,023° 00'W thence to the rendezvous with H.G. escort in position 052° 30'N., 018° 00'W. S.L.53 is capable of a good 8 knots speed of advance, but H.G. only 5. Shortage of fuel in ships of H.G. may have to fuel at Irish port. 2 ships in S.L.F. 53 have fuel for 10 days remainder more. S.L.53 slow 4 ships only just located in position 041° 50' N., 021° 57'W., at 2359/9 course north, speed 7 knots. Will order CAMITO to join them tomorrow and then close them on H.G. Other 2 ships of convoy are in time. HAMLA engine trouble, CREE gone on ahead. Intend leaving convoy at 1900/10 to R/V with ARGUS at 1000/11 in position 040° 39' 015° 33' based on Admiralty's 0106/8 to RENOWN which appears to conflict with F.O.C.N.A. 1132/8 to ARGUS. All times B.S.T. (RENOWN). (0045/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Operation "Collar".

Adty. 0012/9. FURIOUS and NEW ZEALAND STAR sail Bar Light Vessel 1230/15. Route to 54° 20'N., 5° W. where R/V with SOUTHAMPTON at 1800/15. Route thence to 58o 36'N., 9o 36'W. where R/V with C.S.18 in MANCHESTER from Rosyth and with DIDO, FRANCONIA, CLAN FORBES, and CLAN FRAZER from Clyde at 0830/16. Route thence to 51° N., 20° W., whence FURIOUS and DIDO to 11 N., 20° W and Takoradi and rest routed to Gibraltar. (C.in C. W.A. 1217/10 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

CLAN FORBES to be known as M.T.1, CLAN FRAZER as M.T.2, and NEW ZEALAND STAR as M.T.5. C.in C. Med. requested to arrange onward passage from Malta of Naval Personnel in M.T.1 and M.T.2. (D.O.D. F. 2248/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

NOTE: For route see FURIOUS above.

Iceland.

Adty 1632/10 and my 1440/9 and (?)0001/9. HONNINGSVAAG sailed 1530/9 G.M.T. and WISTARIA 1650/10 G.M.T. No further news of Norwegian F.P.Vessel FRIDTJOF NANSEN. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1618/10 to Adty).

My 2106/9 and your 1440/9. It is important that the 2 ships should proceed in company. Have you any further news of FRIDTJOF NANSEN. (A.C.N.S. H. 1632/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

TALISMAN with Prize Crew.

To sail for Patrol 16/11 to relieve TRIDENT, taking a Prize Crew of six for separate operation. See Operations Volume. (V.A.S. 1011/10 to S.2).

Submarines.

TALISMAN.

To sail for Patrol 16/11 to relieve TRIDENT off Lorient. See Operations. (V.A.S. 1011/10 to S.2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Cond.)

H.28, H.32, H.43, H.50.) C.in C. W.A. 1639/7 and Adty 1842/5. Request H.28 be sailed to join 7th S/M Flotilla at Rothesay. H.32 will be available to proceed Londonderry on 20/11. Intend to relieve H.43 at Holyhead by H.50 about 25/11. (Capt: S.7 1011/10 to V.A.S.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0700/11. (V.A.S.1656/10).

CLYDE. To be sailed for Devonport for refit as soon as this can be conveniently arranged. (V.A.S.1909/10 to S.2).

British Air Activity.

Lorient. Attacked by 5 Swordfish till 0015/10 and by 3 Beauforts till 0120/10. Details. (H.Q.C.C. 0500/10 to Air Ministry).

Rosyth. My 2012/9. Cancel para.2 and substitute following parallel track Search. (C.in C. Rosyth 0848/10).

One Anson A/C escorting Convoy E.N.21 will be visiting you periodically. (C.in C. Rosyth 1030/10 to PYTCHLEY, EXMOOR)

P.M. Sortie of Patrol S.A1A. is cancelled today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1424/10 to Adty). My 1424. Southern half only of SA.1. was eventually flown. (C.in C. Rosyth 2028/10 to Adty).

Air Search for 11/11 as in paras 1 and 2 of my 2012/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 2042/10).

Bombing of Coastal Batteries. Requested between Calais and Ambleteuse from 0415 to 0545 on 13/11 during passage of C.E.16 through Straits of Dover. (C.in C. Nore 1026/10 to Adty

At 1406/10 in 53° 33'N., 6° 39'E. A/C attacked a stationary M/V 5000 Tons with Torpedo. Presume missed.

At 1408/10 in same position A/C attacked M/V believed SAARLAND. Torpedo missed.

At 1405/10 in same position A/C attacked stationary M/V 5000 to 6000 tons. Torpedo missed. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.1855/10

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Report of Attack on Convoys. — Your 1758/8. Only one such attack, since 1/10, namely on 6/11 on Convoy W.N.31. Particulars. Suggest that Blenheim aircraft fitted with I.F.F. should be used for these Escorts. (A.C.O.S. 1258/10 to Adty).

EMPIRE DORADO. (British, 5595 Tons). — (Bombed and abandoned on 8/11). 34 of Crew landed Belfast p.m/9. 8 killed, 4 seriously wounded, 2 slightly. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1315/10 to Adty).

Yarmouth. — One bomb fell in R.N.B. grounds. Some damage to buildings. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1729/10 to Adty). Large Bomb landed near S.W. corner of New Hospital Buildings at Yarmouth at 1700. No material damage to walls, but £400 worth of Glass and Window-Frames gone. (O.C.W. Whotley 1815/10 to C.E. in C.)

Dover. — At 0956/10 one A/C dropped 18 small H.E. Bombs in Dover Harbour. No damage or casualties. May be attempt to locate or countermine our land Mine Defences. (V.A. Dover 1941/10 to Adty).

Dungeness. — At 0956/10 one A/C dropped 18 small H.E. bombs in the sea N.N.E. of Dungeness. (V.A. Dover 1941/10 to Adty).

Mining.

Falmouth. — Port closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0340/10 to C.in C. W.A.) Cancel my 0340/10. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 0535/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Penzance and Newlyn. — Mines have been dropped by enemy A/C in Penzance and Newlyn areas. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0705/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Ports of Penzance and Newlyn closed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1330/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Sheerness.

Red mine detonated 049° Knob Light Vessel 5 cables far inside. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 0845/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy mine jettisoned.

Enemy mines jettisoned 045° 45'N., 004° 40'W. (V.A.S. 1144/10 to S/Ms on patrol in Area B).

Operation B.S.46.

Postponed another 24 hours on account of weather. (S.O. Minelayers Immingham 1215/10 to Admiralty).

S.N.43 and 45.

Your 1711/9 (re proposal to sail and course). Concur. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1249/10 to R.A(M.L))(C.in C. W.A. 1529/1 to R.A.(M.L))

Fleetwood)
Lancaster)
Heysham.)

Cancel my 1750/9 (ports closed). Ports are now open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/10 to Admiralty).

Search.

Intend to sail of Fleet minesweepers S O NIGER 11/11 to carry out high percentage search East of Centre line of 148 QZS from N.W. Swin to Z and back to the junction of QZF. Request fighter protection from 0830 to 1730/11. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1658/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Fowey.

Cut one mine in Fowey Channel 50° 10' 16" N., 4° 47' 36" W., mine exploded astern Belgian fishing vessel 50° 7' 29" N., 50 01' 00" W., presumed acoustic. Vessel slightly damaged but now moored in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1926/10 to Admiralty).

KINGSTON ALALITE.

A/S trawler sunk by mine 242° 5.7 cables from Plymouth breakwater light. 15 survivors, including 11 casualties 8 missing. (C.in C. W.A. 1942/10 to Admiralty)

Your 1628/9 and 1706/9. Sunk in searched channel at 1725/10 outside breakwater which had been swept and passed over by several sweepers during the day. (C.in C. W.A. 2254/10 to Admiralty)

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Plymouth.

Port is closed proceed to Brixham. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/10 SASEBO).

Your 1628/9 and 1706/9. During night 9/10 mines dropped by enemy A/C in Approaches to Plymouth. Mines so placed that no advantage in instituting new channel. Positions searched by LL and by Trawler fitted with Kango Hammer, consider in present form not sufficiently powerful. NEWCASTLE has not been sailed. (C.in C. W.A. 2254/10 to Admiralty).

Your 1909/10. Owing to minelaying port is closed and it may not be possible to receive CLYDE for some days. (C.in C. W.A. 2356/10 to V.A.S).

Since my 1536/9 one mine detonated by depth charge Breakwater Light 221° 7.5 cables p.m.9/10. Mine detonated by Kango Hammer in trawler SF MELANTE Breakwater Light 225° 9.5 cables course S 25 W m.a.g. speed 8.5 knots helm amidships explosion 15 yards from bridge starboard side. My 1536/9 trawler ELK was proceeding slow ahead wheel hard to starboard.
(C.in C. W.A. 1946/10 to Admiralty).

Humber.

Port is closed. (F.O. Humber 2045/10 to Admiralty).

Milford Haven.

Port is closed, mines laid by A/C. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2113/10 to Admiralty).

LOWESTOFT
WOOLSTON.

Cancel my 1821/- re 50% Oropesa search (C.in C. Rosyth 2228/9 to LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Trondheim.	At 1315/10, in Trondheim Bay, 2 Tankers at anchor. One 10 to 12,000 Tons, the other about 6000 Tons. A/C report. (C.in C. Rosyth 1700/10 to Adty).
Norwegian Coast.	M/V's seen from 1337/10 to 1415/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1700/10 to Adty).
Havre, Caen, Quistreham, Fecamp, Dieppe.	Shipping and Barges at 1045/10. (PIU 1810/10 to N.I.D.)
Borkum, Norderney.	M/V's seen 1410/10 to 1508/10. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1855/10).
TANNENBERG.	At 1433/10 in 53° 51'N., 7° 36'E., an M/V, believed TANNENBERG, camouflaged grey and black, steering N.E. at 15 knots. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1855/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

RICHMOND CASTLE. (British, 7798 Tons). In collision off Corsewall Point. Damaged bow seriously. Proceeding to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0540/10 to Adty).

ALEXIA.
(Torpedoed 2/8/40)
GREEN PASTURES.
(Drifter).
NORTHCOATES.
(Trawler).

N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1106/9. Intend sailing Tug FAIRPLAY I at 1300/10 for Kirkwall to assist towage of ALEXIA. ATLANTIC COCK will tow GREEN PASTURES to Buckie and then proceed to Oban. NORTHCOATES will remain at Scapa awaiting towage to Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S.1144/10 to Adty).

SEA GEM. (Tug, 86 Tons, 8 knots) Passed South Gare W.S.S. at 0515/30/10. Expected time of arrival Dundee 1600/31/10, anchoring for night inside Farne Islands. N.C.S.O. Dundee's 1051/4/11 to me reports ship not arrived. All inquiries have failed to trace her. (N.C.S.O. Middlesborough 1629/10 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys. F.N.32.) F.S.33.)	Corvette escort SHEARWATER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1031/10).
O.B.239.	Code word "Curly". (C.in C. W.A. 1111/10 to BROKE, MALCOLM, etc.)
O.B.241.	Code word "Siege" (C.in C. W.A. 1111/10 to BROKE, MALCOLM, Etc.)
HX84.	Convoy report having been missed by torpedo in position 055° 44'N., 010° 00' W., at 0905. I have 10 ships. Request confirmation that all ships are to proceed Clyde as ordered in your 2103/6. (HESPERUS, 1051/10 to C.in C. W.A.) Weather. Not met. My position 56.07N., 09.32W (FLEUR DE LYS, 0917/10). Request reply to my 1051 as convoy is now at splitting point. (HESPERUS 1605/10 to C.in C. W.A.) Your 1051/10. Accompany ships to Clyde, escorts then return to base. (C.in C. W.A. 1657/10 to HESPERUS) Asking for any information about raider attack. (1 S.L. to BONAVENTURE, 2218/10).
S.C.10.	Not met. (WALKER, 1030/10).
HX85.	Ships returned from Convoy H.X.85. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1130/10).
S.L.53.) H.G.46.)	Position and routes. (RENOWN, 0045/10 amended 0843/10). See Operations, Raider
General.	Before altering course for last positio of your ocean route continue on present course for an additional 260 miles. Then steer for last position of your ocean route. (D.T.D., 1647/10 to all British ships, Area 1).
E.N.23.	Escort HUGH WALPOLE, DRAGONFLY additional escort GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1118/1
O.B.M.242.	Escort DERBY COUNTY. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 0845/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

HX. 87.
HX. 88.
SC. 12.

Your 1654/9. H.X.87, H.X.88 and S.C.12 sailing to be confirmed later. Route. It is anticipated B.H.X.86 will not be in time to bunker and store until H.X. 89. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1434/10, to Admiralty etc.)

H.X.88.

In view of your 1659/9, are arrangements in your 1829/4 for H.X.88 to be sailed to keep rendezvous (date) to be adhered to.
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1651/10 to Adty).

E.N.
Evading Air Attack.

Times of departure of E.N. Convoys are to be adjusted to allow for the Convoy altering course 100° at 1 hour before sunset resuming their original course at sunset. The use of this manoeuvre to evade enemy air attacks must be dependant on weather conditions and the speed made good.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1203/10).

U/Boat Attacks, use of W/T.

Commodores and Masters to be informed that if a U/Boat attacks a convoy when an A/S escort is in company, ships attacked or in immediate vicinity may break W/T silence to report immediately any information indicating whereabouts of submarine which might be of value to the escort.

On no account must W/T silence be broken without definite evidence of an attack and silence should be resumed after the attack is finished. Instructions in A.M.S.I. 19 and Consigs. Article 4 to be amended accordingly. (D.T.D. 1058/10).

Troop Convoys.

LADY OF MAN.

To sail from Douglas. I.O.M. to Liverpool with 900 troops on 14/11. (D.O.D.(H) 1915/10).

LEOPOLDVILLE.

To sail from Liverpool with 900 personnel to R/V with REVENGE on 12/11 and proceed with that ship to Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. W.A. 2126/10 amended 1015/11).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Sinking of PONCELET.

Adty. 2345/9. Reply direct via Freetown repeated C.S.1. (C.S.1. to MILFORD, 0346A/10). Your 2345/9. MILFORD was 20 miles (227°?) From Cape Lopez the nearest land when explosion was felt at 1425 on 7/11. (F.O.C.S.I. to Adty 0711A/10).

N.A. Madrid 1852/8. DEVONSHIRE's Walrus, the only British seaplane in the area, did not fly on 4/11. (C.S.I to Adty 0807A/10). Add to my 0807A. French Submarine PONCELET at Port Gentil bombed by Free French Blenheims on this date. French sloop BOUGAINVILLE was also attacked on passage. (C.S.I to Adty. 0821A/10). Was PONCELET attacked by any British Forces on any day except 7/11 when she scuttled herself? (1 S.L. to C.S.I 1939/10). Your 1939. No. (C.S.I. 2346/10).

Libreville Occupied.

My 1841A/9. French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA reports Libreville has agreed to terms of French S.N.O. for cessation of hostilities. (C.S.I to Adty. 0120A/10). Libreville occupied by Free French at 1100 today. Owing to lack of communications occupation of Port Gentil will be subject to special agreement entailing some delay. Free French request continuation of British covering operations. (F.O.I.C.S. to Admty). (1421A/10).

D'ENTRECASTEAUX.

Left Dakar 24/10 for Diego Suarez and Saigon. Speed last reported voyage 6 to 7 knots. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2001N/10).

COMMANDANT DELUGE.

Sloop minesweeper, escorting French ships P.L.M.12 and BOURGES, passing Gibraltar West to East 1500. (S.O.I.Gib., 1643/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Recognition Signals. — I.C.S. 1129A/1. Do not consider British recognition signals should be issued Free French aircraft for the present. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty, 1919N/10).

North Atlantic.

Operation White. — Admty. 1114/6 and F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9. NEWCASTLE not yet sailed due to enemy minelaying activity. (D.O.D.(F) 1235/10 to F.O.C.N.A. and F.O. Force H).

ARGUS DESPATCH. — WISHART and WRESTLER to R/V. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144A/10 to RENOWN, ARGUS and DESPATCH.

MACHADO. — Consul-General Lisbon's 2032/9 re boarding of fishing steamer MACHADO by Submarine of unknown nationality. Submarine was UTMOST. (F.O.C.N.A. 0758/10 to Admiralty)

RENOWN. — My 1043/9. After leaving convoy p.m/10 return to Gibraltar endeavour arrive p.m./12. If possible 2 Destroyers will be sent to meet you daylight/12. Pass through 037° 00'N., 014° 00W, 035° 30'N 010° 00'W., 035° 00'N, 007° 00W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1142/10 to RENOWN).

FOXHOUND. — Provided 8th D.F. continues to be based at Gibraltar suggest FOXHOUND should join 8th D.F. which will consist entirely of F. class. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/10 to Admiralty).

Force H. Aircraft Attack. — No aircraft lost in Force H. No casualties or damage. Two enemy shadowers certain, one bomber probable. Further report later. (F.O. Force H, 1639/10 to Admiralty). (See also 1920/10

Italian Submarine. prisoners. — Your 1612/31/10 and my 1220/10/11 Italian prisoners on board are Lt. Birindelli and 2nd class diver Pagannini of midget Submarine. Latter interrogated and has produced most information. Lt. Accardi 1st Lt. of LAFOLE, 8 members of crew of LAFOLE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1642/10 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Submarine Patrol.

My 1120/9. No Submarine is available for this duty before 21/11 by date Force H will have returned to Gibraltar. Intend to establish Submarine patrol to eastward of Gibraltar after departure of Force H. on 14/11. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/10 to Admiralty).

Force H. Aircraft attack.

Observers in Fulmars were in unique position to observe results of A.A. fire on bombers during attacks on 9/11. They report except for stray shots A.A. bursts from Force H. formed level carpet 2 to 3 thousand feet below bombers who were at 14 thousand feet. This error in low judgment identical for both attacking and retiring run. Weather normal. Conditions very good. Plot prediction good. Firing ships ARK ROYAL, BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD. This suggests that fuze and not height finder may be at fault. (S.O. Force H. 1920/10 to Admiralty).

Spanish Interception.

Madrid 1835/9. Re Spanish S.S.DOMINE stopped by British Trawler. Admiralty has no information about this interception on 7/11. (D.E.W.D. 1837/10).

Italian Submarines Tangier.

My telegram No. 0705 8/11. Colonel Yuste states:- (a) Damage to submarines A and B had now been finally assessed and official statements would reach Madrid at noon/11 by air. (b) Colonel Yuste would neither give me details regarding damage done nor an estimate of time required to repair - those were questions for Ministry of Marine at Madrid. (C) He declared that in their present condition neither submarine was in a fit state to navigate on the surface. (D) It would be possibl to repair damage in Tangier and Italians wish to obtain services of an Italian diver for this purposes. (E) Colonel Yuste had made Chief of Spanish Forces in Tangier responsible for proper observance of International Law and Submarines would be blocked by ships on all sides. He himself would see every possible precaution against escape had been taken (this does not fit in with his previous statement that they could not safely navigate). (Consul General,Tangier. 0300/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

To be sailed to cover convoys S.L.54 slow and Fast to latitude of Madeira, then to proceed Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. to report when A/S escort will be available. (V.C.N.S. to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. 1144/10).

Cancel my 2125/5. ROYAL SOVEREIGN will now proceed to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1155/10).

Orders to ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (C.in C. S.A. 1243N/10) 1243N passed to ESPERANCE BAY for information. (C.in C. S.A.1740/10).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN left 1430/10. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1501Z/10).

HEIMEN.
THURSO BANK.

Overdue shipping. My 0945/9. HEIMEN arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown 1035B/10). My 0945/9. THURSO BANK arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown 1715/10).

Mediterranean.

Toranto Reconnaissance.

Morning reconnaissance. In harbour 5 battleships, 6 cruisers, large number of destroyers. (V.A. Malta, 1051/10). Aircraft reports 4 merchant vessels 38.14 N 17.40E, course 360° at 1104 B (V.A. Malta, 1055/10).

ILLUSTRIOUS.
Aircraft Operation.

Re possibility of dawn attack by A/C's from ILLUSTRIOUS on Italian at Toranto. (C.N.S. 0041/10 to C.in C. Med.)
Reply: Fully considered and hope to carry it out on night of 11-12/11. Anchorage, however, heavily protected by balloons ashore and on lighters and also by nets. Complete success must therefore not be expected. (C.in C. Med. 1103/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal Raid.

Enemy plane raiding canal area 10/11. (?9/11). 2021 to 2205, making prolonged reconnaissance of canal without interference between kilometre 12 and Deversoir, dropped 10 bombs near latter place. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1142/10) ~~=~~ 1818/10)

Alexandria, Raids.

Air raid 1930 to 2000. One machine 4 bombs; 2030 to 2100, four machines 18 bombs. No damage, no casualties. (R.A., Alexandria, 1155/10).
Air Raid 2000 to 2030, bombs believed jettisoned for seaward. 2220 to 2240, 2 bombs, one Egyption and 50 sheep killed, one woman injured. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0840/11).

Convoy Movements, ILLUSTRIOUS, BARHAM.

My 1357/4. Convoy movements to date carried out according to plan. ILLUSTRIOUS fighters shot down 2 Cants and 2 S.79's during outward passage. No Bombing. BARHAM and cruisers joined at 1015/10, now entering Malta. (C.in C. Med. 1215/10). See also 2317/10.

Greek Situation.

My 1623/9. Military situation seems to be taking an unexpected and quite hopeful turn. If you decide to bombard, following targets suggested by Greeks. No indication of any minelaying near Corfu. (N.A.Athens 1301/10, to C.in C. Med).

Attack on Valona 7/11.

My A.886, 9/11. Further details attacks by 6 Wellingtons 70 Squadron on Valona 7/11. One ship in harbour hit, another bomb falling very close. 2 Wellingtons shot down by fighters on standing patrol and 2 others severely damaged. One Breda 65 shot down confirmed and second unconfirmed. Wellingtons attacked formation of 3 Cant 506's 5 miles off Coast from Valona on return journey, possibly damaging one. On both outward and return journeys our aircraft fired on by Greek ground batteries Corinth and ships in Patras. Four Wellingtons reached their base safely.
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. A.888, 1334/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Report; Alexandria Raid.

1 Sunderland 230 Squadron searched for submarine in 31.57N., 27.57E, negative result. Night 9-10/11. 1936, enemy aircraft dropped 9 bombs on Matruh no damage. 1930 hours, enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Lake Mariut and near Ikingi Mariut in Alexandria area, no damage or casualties yet reported. 2046, 1 enemy aircraft dropped 8 H.E. and some incendiary bombs between aerodrome and railway at Helmar near Cairo. Slight R.A.F. damage no casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. A.888 1332/10).

Air Reconnaissance.

Air reconnaissance today. E.I.A. Nil (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1649/10).

Malta Reinforcement.

C.in C. Med's 1215/10. Only air raid at Malta, reconnaissance by fighters, one of which dived and machine-gunned Hal Far, slightly damaging one Swordfish. Army reinforcement landed without incident. GLASGOW and BERWICK with Army detachments fallen in and band playing gave excellent fillip to local morale. All Med. Fleet Ships, including reinforcements, cleared Grand Harbour by 2020. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2317/10).

TERROR
VENDETTA.

Sailed for Suda Bay 1400, expects to arrive 1600/13.
(N.O.I.C. Malta. 2317/10).

HERO.
HEREWARD.

Remaining at Malta for quick refit.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2317/10).

RAMILLIES.

Convoy escorted by RAMILLIES and destroyers left Malta p.m./10 for Alexandria. (D.O.R. 11/11).

Middle East Reinforcements.

Re publicity. (C.in C. M.E. to W.O. 0036/10).

TRITON.
REGENT.
OTUS.

Movements of. (Capt: S.1. 1733/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.).

Submarine Attacks on Destroyers.

Reply to TRITON 1801/7 re circumstances in which submarines may attack a destroyer or T.B. (Capt: S.1 1131/10).

East Indies.

Massawa Bombing.

1155/9. 3 Blenheims 14 Squadron attacked main quays and destroyer base Massawa from 4000 feet, bombs hitting 1 small and 1 large warehouse on quay. Considerable damage believed inflicted. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1333/10 to Air Ministry).

Reports of Suspicious vessels, possible raider.

Following reports of (?) suspicious vessels have been received 10/11 (a) at 1341Z Norwegian ship OLE JACOBS in position 006° 29' North 090° 16' East. Ship said she was shelled. Message then cancelled. Not considered cancellation was genuine (b) At 1430Z an incompletely received message read by Aden W/T which gave no information except QQ QQ (c) At 1500Z British ship BRITISH DUCHESS in position 010° 50' South 044° 19' East. Report was cancelled at 1508Z. Cancellation considered genuine. (C.in C. East Indies. 1644Z/10 to East Indies Squadron.

CAPETOWN
CANBERRA
WESTRALIA
DURBAN
CRICKET.

My 1644/10 para.(a) (1). Dispositions ordered. (C.in C. East Indies, 1836Z/10 to East Indies Squadron)
My 1836/10. Patrols and movements of CANBERRA, WESTRALIA, CAPETOWN and DURBAN. (C.in C. East Indies, 2016Z/10 to Force V).

KANDAHAR.
CHAKDINA.
PROTECTOR.
(Storm).

KANDAHAR reported cyclonic storm at about 1200Z/9/11. CHAKDINA with BHIMA in two and PROTECTOR in company reported her position at 1620Z/9/11, but has not been in W/T touch since 2022Z/9/11. SHROPSHIRE sent to search for.(C.in C. East Indies, 1838Z/10 to Admiralty).
My 1838/10. SHROPSHIRE heard CHAKDINA at 1800Z/10, W/T communication not established. A D/F bearing was obtained. (C.in C. E.I. 2044Z/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Operation "Rope".

My 1834/6. DORSETSHIRE to bombard an enemy position on passage from Aden to Durban. Operation will be called "Rope". (C.in C. E.I., to S.N.O. Red Sea. 1916Z/10). See Operations Col.

Pearl River Traffic.

Reuter from Canton reports opening Pearl River and resumption of traffic Hong Kong and Macao. Early confirmation and details required. (Capt: O.S. Singapore to S.O.I. Hong Kong 0248Z/10).

America and West Indies.

REVENGE.

Leaving Liverpool 14/11, for Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) 2126/10).

Enemy M.V's request for DESPATCH DUNEDIN.

Report indicates possibility enemy merchant vessels in Mexican Gulf ports may attempt to sail. DIOMEDE and VAN KINSBERGEN fully occupied at eastern end of Caribean Sea. Latter is due for refit when CARADOC's turbine defects completed. Would appreciate return of DESPATCH and DUNEDIN as soon as situation at Rome permits. If only one could be spared, would prefer DESPATCH. (C.in C. A. W.I. to Admty. 1122/10).

Australia.

Convoy U.S.8.

My 0689/5 New Zealand Government considered accommodation in BATORY unsuitable for 187, which were intended and have reduced the number of sailings in BATORY by 499. New Zealand wish number for U.S.8 to be increased from 5246 to 5745. (A.C.N.B. 0415Z/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ORINOCO. My 1010/6. Reliably reported now expected to leave Tampico at any moment (N.A.Washington, 1302/10).

MENES. At Trieste, being fumigated before receiving crew on 12/11. (D.S.432).

ANTARKTIS. At Vigo, received 2 10 ton lorry loads of provisions on 9/11. (D.S.432).

BREMEN) EUROPA.) Had both left Bremeshaven on 3/11, one being sighted at Brunsbuttel on 4/11. (B.1) (D.S.432).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

KILISSI. See Home Commands, Policy.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Tangier.

2 Italian submarines (damaged). See North Atlantic.

0905.

Submarine reported in 55.44 N., 10.00 W. at 0905. (C.in C. W.A. 1251/10). (Aldergrove to aircraft duty 1545/10).

1100.

Italian submarine reported damaged in 49.50 N., 11.13 W. at 1100/10. JACKAL, JAGUAR and JUPITER to leave vicinity of Eddystone at dark today to attack U/Boat at dawn tomorrow. (C.in C. W.A. 1330/10 1405/10) (V.A.S. 1249/10, 1544/10) Your 1330 Capt: D.5 in JACKAL sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1630/10). My 1330, position of U/Boat was between 49° and 50°N and between 11° and 13°W., at 1100/10. One section of Blenheims will escort you 11/11 from 0900 being in position 48° 45'N 09° 30' W. at that time. Call sign, SHEPHERD. JACKAL (S.O. Destroyers) R/T call sign BITEM. (C.in C. W.A. 1744/10 to D.5.)

1110.

55° N., 15° W., position indefinite. (D.5.432).

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

Italian.

1 may be in area 49 to 50° N 11 to 13° W, proceeding to Bordeaux slowly and may be damaged.
1 may still be in Azores area.
1 may have been off Cape Roca, Portugal, on 5/11.

German.

1 possibly in area 49 to 50°N., 10 to 12°W, proceeding to Lorient.
3 possibly N of 55° N and W of 15° W of which 1 is in area 58° to 60° N and W of 20°W., another may be in area 55° to 57° N., 17° to 21° W., the third in about 55° N., 15° W.
1 more is probably N of 55° N and E of 15° W., whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1246/10).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

Thames Estuary

In view of present situation in the Thames Estuary, the need for a rescue tug at Sheerness has become most urgent. Request that tug ST MELLONS may be sent for this purpose and that a relief may be sent as soon as possible for MURIA at Harwich. (C. in C., Nore, 1251/11 to Adty)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE

At 1130/11. (D.C. 1133/11) At 2330/11. (D.C. 2346/11)

Plymouth A/A Defences

Your 0056/8 dealing with minelaying at Plymouth. Question of night fighting aircraft is being considered by Air Ministry.
2. Re para 2. Request in conjuction with A.A.Defence Commander all available evidence including R.D.F. Plots may be examined to confirm circumstances of attack particularly height, and that it may be confirmed that mine and not bomb was dropped.
3. If height is confirmed heavy A.A. or 3" Case I will be better defence than close range A.A.
4. No heavy or light A.A. are at present available from production or other sources. A.A. Command are instructing local Commander to examine any re-deployment of existing 3.7 and 3" Case I, Bofors and 2-pounders considered to be desirable to combat enemy's present tactics. Improvement of night firing arrangements are also being examinied. (A.C.N.S. H. 1314/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 0056/8 and 2254/10. To assist in dealing with this serious situation I have given instructions for six single barrelled pompoms now in dockyard to be mounted temporarily on baulk mountings or on lorries and sited at Penlee Point to cover the Approaches to the port. Crews will be provided from depot and local resources. (C. in C., W.A. 1316/11 to Adty.)

/Following.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. Contd.

Following information is required by 1800 Tuesday:-
(1) The Strength and type of military guard at present provided.
(2) Rank of local Defence Commander appointed.
(3) Whether accommodation is available for a defence company of five officers and two hundred men but not additional to any Army ratings at present lent for defence of Naval Air Stations.
(4) A list of all guns used in active defence. (D.N.A.D. 1725/11 to R.N.A.S. Stations)

Movements

LINCOLN
LUDLOW
LEWES

Your 1040/10. Owing to minelaying at Plymouth sailing is to be deferred pending further instructions (C. in C., W.A. 0043/11 to (F.O.I.C. Belfast)

D.3. — Intend to sail for Sheerness at 1800/11 (Capt. (D) 3, 0919/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

CILICIA — Request you will sail CILICIA for area C2 as soon as can be arranged (F.O.C.N.P. 0950/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CAVINA — Sailed for Clyde E.T.A. 1700/12 (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 1200/11 to Admty.)

HEATHER — Intend sailing to arrive Greenock 0800/13 for D.G. ranging and compass adjustment. On completion F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to route and sail HEATHER for Tobermory (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1200/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Patrol 0 — Cancel tonight Monday. AURORA may revert to 4 hours notice until 0800/12 and give night leave. (C. in C., Nore. 1247/11)

Dover — Patrols for tonight 11/12 (V.A.Dover, 1531/1

/LL Trawlers...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

LL Trawlers LACENILA NAB WYKE	My 1741/10. Sailing delayed owing to collision damage (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1658/11)
Orkneys and Shetlands	Positions at 2000/11 (A.C.O.S. 1538/11)
LEOPOLDVILLE HIGHLANDER	Intend sailing LEOPOLDVILLE 1030/12 from Bar Light Vessel. HIGHLANDER will R/V 50° 48' N., 4° 43' W at 1400/11 after A/S exercises. Thence in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1145/11 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1540/11 to Admty.)
Orkneys and Shetlands	Trawlers line occupied 11/11 (A.C.O.S. 1643/11)
Nore and Harwich	Movements summary (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/11 to SHEARWATER)
SHEARWATER	My position, course and speed 052° 11' N., 0001° 55' E., 020° 15 knots. (SHEARWATER 1800/11 to LONDONDERRY)
SOMALI	My 1702/11 add SOMALI sails Scapa midnight for Rosyth (C. in C., Rosyth 2026/11)
DOUGLAS	When detached later to-day proceed Faroes to complete with fuel. Then escort transport ADDA to Liverpool as ordered by N.O. i/c Faeroes. (C. in C., H.F. 1209/11)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER

Your 2218/10. BONAVENTURE Spoke Oiler ERODONA at 1700/7 on 056° 01' N., 025° 45' W., who answered following question. "Have you any news. Reply. Scattering Tuesday night hoping to rejoin convoy tomorrow. Saw one vessel of German Armoured ship ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE class sink JERVIS BAY and probably six other ships last seen course South position 052° 35'N; 032° 13' W.,
After being detached at 0400/8 BONAVENTURE and MASHONA searched area to leeward of sinkings through positions 053° 13' N., 031° 45' W., 052° 52' N., 031° 43' W., 052° 48' N., 031° 16' W., thence at 1800 set course rendezvous with REPULSE. Spoke RANDA DEMETRIOS INGLESSIS nad ELIZABETH MASSEY on November 8th but all were Westbound and gave no information. No trace of wreckage or boats were sighted. BONAVENTURE 0115/11 to Adty.)

C. in C., H.F's 1246/9 and your 1930/10. Sail LETITIA to R/V with REPULSE at 1200/13 in 62° 30' N., 12° W. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0231/11 to F.O.C.N.P.).

Admiralty 2247/10. Following were received:
A. Reports of attacks on RANGITIKI, CORNISH CITY, and BEAVERFORD from Whitehall W/T.
B. An enemy report from JERVIS BAY.
C. Admty. message 2019 to FOLKESTONE
2. These placed the enemy about 150 miles to southward.
3. On receipt of Admty. 2225/5 course was steered for scene of action which was reached at dawn 6th November. It was then blowing a gale from E.S.E. and visibility was less than two miles.
4. Owing to weather and fuel situation and to defects in LUDLOW and LEWES search was abandoned at 0900/6 without anything having been sighted.
(LINCOLN 0730/11 to Admty.)

My 0045/10, para 4. For H.G. 5 read H.G. 7. Add convoys increased speed to 7 knots at 1000/10 (RENOWN 0843/10 to Adty.)

WORCESTER patrolling on T.R. 36 (C. in C., H.F. 0933/10 to F.O.C.N.P)

/Expect.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Expect to arrive Scapa in NELSON with 4 destroyers p.m./13 passing through position 60° 35' N., 11° 20' W and south of North Rona. F.O.C.N.P. is to withdraw WORCESTERSHIRE from patrol on T.R. 36 after 1800/12. (C. in C., H.F. 1219/11)

Admiralty 2247/10. At 1834Z + 3/5 in 051° 05' N., 045° 02' W., course and speed 055° 14.5 in company MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL, LEEDS, received Admty. 2028/5. At 2056 spread ships to 3 miles and altered course to 082° for Tory Island speed 14.5 knots. At daylight 0600Z + 3/6 spread ships to 16 miles on line of bearing 000° 180° in order CHURCHILL, MONTGOMERY, LEAMINGTON, LEEDS the latter being southern ship. Course and speed 082° 14½5 knots. At 1400 when in position 051° 58' N., 037° 43' W sighted steamship SOVAK who reported she was dispersed from Convoy H.X. 84 which had been attacked by an enemy warship and was returning to Halifax. SOVAK requested instructions and was routed as follows: through position 054° N., 025° W., and 054° 40' N., 016° 40' W., then if escort not met to proceed by guard route to Liverpool The sight of SOVAK at her position, course and speed was reported to Admiralty in LEAMINGTON'S 0622/9 transmitted at 1215/9. At ? 0656/7 LEAMINGTON passed through position where convoy H.X. 84 was attacked but nothing was seen. At 0830 Z + zone sighted French merchant vessels SAN FRANCISCO and WINNIPEG. Position, course and speed of these ships was approximately 053° 29' N., 022° 36' W., 075° 13 knots. (LEAMINGTON 1330/11 to (?) N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

Following is a summary of a report by Rear Admiral Maltby, Commodore of Convoy H.X. 84:-
At 1500/5 Convoy consisted of 37 ships The MORSKAWALA having dropped out on 2/11 and had not rejoined. Convoy was in 9 columns with Commodore in CORNISH CITY leading the 5th column. Escort JERVIS BAY was in centre of convoy between 4th and 5th columns. Convoy was steering 067° at 9 knots. Sea smooth, visibility good. At 1540 RANGITIKI leading the 6th column called attention to the bearing 020°.

/Nothing.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Contd.

Nothing seen except a very little smoke. At 1700 EMPIRE PENGUIN leading the 4th column called attention to bearing 351° when ship was seen approaching convoy. At 1706 JERVIS BAY reports unknown warship approaching convoy "prepare to scatter" At 1707 JERVIS BAY asked for convoy to be turned to starboard which was immediately done by emergency procedure. At 1709 JERVIS BAY cancelled this signal which had already been complied with. At 1710 unknown warship opened fire on convoy and on JERVIS BAY who had drawn ahead of convoy and was steering for raider. Commodore at once made signal to convoy to scatter which was carried out effectively Ships dropping smoke floats which appeared to put up a very effective screen. Raider on opening fire was about 8-10 miles distant and appeared to be the GRAF SPEE Class. It was subsequently estimated by height of splashes and measurements of shell fragments that shells were 11". Raider fired 3 gun salvoes throughout. For the first 15 minutes the raider appeared to concentrate on the JERVIS BAY who put up a very gallant fight and continued firing when she was burning furiously. She was last seen at 1900 still burning when an explosion occurred on board. After shelling the JERVIS BAY raider was seen to attack RANGITIKI. In the meantime the convoy was scattering, most of the ships being pursued to the southward by the raider while some others, including the Commodore's ship, escaped to the westward and northward. Firing was observed to the southward from the Commodore's ship up till about 2230 and during this time about 7 heavy explosions were observed, thought to be tankers. Nothing further was seen and there were no ships in sight of Commodore at daylight. Commodore then made for the Clyde picking up the following ships en route:-
RODONA, DANAE II, OIL RELIANCE, ATHEL TEMPLAR, DAN-Y-BRYN, EMPIRE PENGUIN, CASTILLIAN, ANDALUSIAN, BRIARWOOD, CORNISH CITY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1400/11 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

My 1240/11. Amend as follows. (C. in C.,W.A. 1710/11 to DERBYSHIRE, LETITIA)

MATEBELE, MASHONA, SIKH, PUNJABI are detailed to proceed with REPULSE in accordance with F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1116/11 (R.A.D. H.F. 1743/11 to MATEBELE)

My 1145/11. Amend R/V to 55° 39' N., 7°W at 0830/13. (C. in C., W.A. 1917/11 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Report any further details you can add to your 0730/11. For example, were ships spread and if so how far apart. (V.C.N.S. 2015/11 to LINCOLN)

Have you any further details to add to your 0115/11. For example, what front was covered in your sweep. (V.C.N.S. 2016/11 to BONAVENTURE)

As search carried out by BONAVENTURE appears to have been quite inadequate she is to proceed immediately to position of sinking and carry out search for survivors and wreckage to the limit of her endurance. Information re weather since date of sinking follows. (1st S.L. 2055/11 to C. in C., H.F.)

Proceed at your best possible speed to 52° 40' N., 32° 30' W., Further orders follow. (D.C. 2116/11 to CHITRAL)

Operations PU 1 and PU 2

Three 70 foot M.T.B's to destroy alleged Rescue craft and/or Light Forces maintaining the Swept Channel between 53° 23' N 4° 48' E., and 53° 8' N., 4° 36' E., attacking without challenge any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. Details. (C. in C., Nore 1 50/11 to BEEHIVE)

FURIOUS
DIDO

Comply with Admty. 1350/9 and F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0855/11. (A.C.C.S. 1042/11 to DIDO)

/My 1217/10....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

FURIOUS.
DIDO-Contd.

My 1217/10. Sail CAIRO with SOUTHAMPTON to R/V with convoy as A/A Escort (C. in C., W.A. 1325/11 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

My 1217/10. Destroyer escort. HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HURRICANE from Liverpool, VESPER, VENOMOUS from Clyde, VELOX from Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A. 1643/11 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

DIDO's 0950/9 and 2015/10. Have inspected DIDO's shell stowage. Particulars. Some reduction in rate of fire over long period must be accepted, but consider ship fit for service contemplated. (C.S. 15 1737/11 to Admty.)

DIDO left Scapa 1930 for Clyde. (A.C.O.S. 2047/11)

Iceland

Intend sailing LL Trawlers LACENULA and NAB WYKE for Reykjavik 1000/12. Speed 9 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1741/10 to Admty)

Submarines

SEAWOLF

Intend to sail SEAWOLF escorted by TROUBADOUR when ready from Campbelltown to position 180 Lizard Head 7 miles. Details. (S.2, 0854/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Time your arrival at position W, 180 and 2 between 0830 and 1500. E.T.A. at this pdnt is to be reported 24 hours in advance. (Capt. (S) 5., 1602/11 to SEAWOLF)

TRIDENT

Intend to direct TRIDENT to proceed from S. of Belle Ile to carry out anti U-Boat patrol off Lorient. (V.A.S. 1633/11 to Admty.)

Amended by (V.A.S. No T.O.O. to Admty.)

After dark 11/12 TRIDENT is to proceed to carry out anti U-Boat patrol to south westward of Ile de Groin. (V.A.S. 1634/11 to S/M's on patrol, Area B. Negative S/M's on patrol Portsmouth Command)

/Positions.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Positions and Movements — For following 24 hours at 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1651/11)

TUNA — V.A.S. 1634/11. TUNA may be on the line 046° 56' N., 003° 55' W., 048° 00' N., 005° 20' W., tonight 11/12 (Capt (S) 2, 2252/11 to TRIDENT)

British Air Activity

Rosyth Air Searches — My 2042/10. Add following one circuit of Cross-over Patrol. (C. in C., Rosyth 0058/11)

R/C of Norwegian Coast — 3 Beauforts leave Wick about 1300 for offensive R/C between Sogne Fiord and Stadlandet. (C. in C., Rosyth 1124/11 to Adty.)

A/C Torpedo Training in Firth of Forth — Has begun between May Island and Inchkeith. Request all ships be informed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1509/11 to Admty.)

Bombing of Coastal Batteries — C. in C., Nore's 1026/10. Request may be undertaken by Coastal Commands, who should also undertake future similar requirements in co-ordination with Bomber Command. (Air Ministry 1800/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

S/M Bombing Restrictions — Institute in Holyhead Sactuary daily from 0730 to 1600 from 12 to 15 November inclusive and in Tay Sanctuary 0800 to 1800 daily from 12 to 14 November. (H.Q.C.C 1800/11)

Attack on Lorient — 11/11 Two factories at west end of wet dock hit. 3 Blenheims attacked 2 small ships in 48° 45' N., 4° 0' E., results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0247/12)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

BALMORE

(British 1925 tons) Bombed and sinking in 52° N., 17° W., (BALMORE 1036/11) Want help immediately (BALMORE 1041/11) Sinking slowly. May last 2 hours. (BALMORE) 1117/11) If in vicinity proceed to assist. (C. in C., W.A. 1217/11 to ROCHESTER) Detach one ship to assist BALMORE. D/F bearing puts her in 53° N., and 15° to 16° W., (C. in C., W.A. 1637/11 to ARROW) Your 1217. Have searched 5 hours without result. In view of your 1637 and weather, am abandoning search and proceeding. Weather report. (ROCHESTER 1704/11 to C. in C., W.A.) Still afloat at 1812 G.M.T. (Port Patrick Radio 1807/11 to Navy Charge, Greenock) Bearing from Port Patrick Radio 254° (Port Patrick 1812/11 to Greenock) Port boat swamped. Help urgently required. (Scapa W./T. 2158/11) One boat away with 10 men. 17 men left in ship. High wind and sea. (BALMORE 2314/11 G.M.T.) Position 52° N 17° W. Ship almost gone. No boats. Do your best (BALMORE 0318/12) (C. in C., W.A. 0445/12 to ARROW, AMAZON. Repts. to ABERDEEN, HEARTSEASE, GERANIUM) Bearing from Lands End 300°, from Malin Head 244° at 0534/12) (Lands End Radio 0535/12) Bearings give position 53° N., 15° W., (C. in C., W.A. 0705/12 to ARROW, AMAZON) My position 55° 13' N., 12° 50' W., Very heavy sea. (AMAZON 0001/12 to CYCLAMEN) MY position 53° 18' N., 14° 55' W., Searched without result since 1400. Spoke ALMEDA STAR inward bound, nothing sighted. Intend returning Clyde forthwith (AMAZON 1900/12 to C. in C., W.A.)

RAVNANGER

(Norwegian, 3371 tons) Reports bombed 1 to 1½ miles N.E. of No 20 Buoy. Submerged, stern floating, dangerous to navigation. 26 men saved in own boat, 1 man lost. (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 0500/11 to C. in C., Rosyth) A.P. Vessel and Tug both report no trace. Consider no longer dangerous to navigation. Depth of water 20 fathoms. (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1030/11 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/Convoy AREANA.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Convoy ARE/MA (F.S. 32)

Being shadowed by 1 aircraft in 51° 54' N., 1° 40' E., (VIMIERA 0828/11) 13 aircraft in 51° 43' N., 1° 22' E. (VIMIERA 1027/11) 10 aircraft in 51° 36' N., 1° 11' E., (VIMIERA 1205/11) Aircraft bombing convoy (VIMIERA 1219/11) Am standing by COLONEL CROMPTON on fire. No other casualties. 2 aircraft down. (VIMIERA 1242/11 to C. in C., Nore.) Have left SUN II towing COLONEL CROMPTON who is still on fire. (VIMIERA 1259/11 to C. in C., Nore) Enemy bombing convoy in 51° 31' N., 1° 4' E (VIMIERA 1331/11)

Convoy AGENT (F.N. 32)

Help in 51° 37' N., 1° 13' E., (LONDONDERRY 1211/11) Enemy is dropping bombs. (LONDONDERRY 1213/11) Fighters being sent (C. in C., Nore, 1220/11 to LONDONDERRY) 12 Junkers. 2 Enemy and 2 Hurricanes down. (LONDONDERRY 1220/11 to C. in C., Nore) CORSEA hit. (LONDONDERRY 1230/11) My 1220. 2 Junkers. Reported 6 down by VIVIEN. (LONDONDERRY 1326/11 to C. in C. Nore) 2 M.T.B's leaving Harwich now for A/C rescue work. (C. in C., Nore 1349/11 to LONDONDERRY) VEGA in tow. steering gear out of action. (ST. MELLONS 1356/11 to C. in C., Nore)

My 1220 final analysis. Attack by 12 J.U on head of convoy 32. 3 down by our fighters, one by H.M.S. LONDONDERRY's gunfire, and one Hurricane down. Attack by 10 more on rear of F.N. convoy 32 and head of F.S. convoy 32. 2 J.U. down. COLONEL CROMPTON, ILSE, CORSEA damaged No ship sunk. At 1405 one enemy seaplane brought down by fighters in 051° 40' N., 001° 26' E., (LONDONDERRY 1516/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Salvage Tug ST. MELLONS armed 12 pdr. gun reports during attack on F.N. 32 having obtained direct hit total destruction one Me aircraft also near miss partly disabling a second which was shot down by friendly aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2220/11 to C. in C., Nore.)

/ F.N. 32 .....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

F.N. 32 damaged in Southen Anchorage. COLONEL CROMPTON main engines and helm out of action. Fire on board under control. Proceeding London a.m. 12th. CORSEA near miss, leaking under control Proceeding London a.m. 12th. F.S. CORDUFF reported unexploded bomb on board anchored at the Nore. (N.C.S.O. Thames 0133/12 to Adty.)

HUGH WALPOLE — (A/S Trawler) Being attacked by A/C in 56° 45' N., 2° 4' W. (HUGH WALPOLE 1350/11) One A/C. Attack unsuccessful (HUGH WALPOLE 1455/11 to C. in C., Rosyth)

BARON MINTO — Coastguard Peterhead reports one Heinkel dropping Bombs on SS BARON MINTO ashore at Rattray Head, at 1345. (C. in C., Rosyth 1422/11 to Adty.)

Ramsgate — Between 1315 and 1320/11 A/C dropped 3 H.E. Bombs on town. Casualties and damage, but no Naval.

SARPEDON (H.M.Trawler) — At 1358 2 A/C machine-gunned SARPEDON causing 6 casualties, one very serious, one serious, and 4 slight. 12 Pdr. gun in SARPEDON damaged. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1740/11 to Adty.)

St. Merryn — At 1633/11 one A/C dropped 3 bombs. Damage to building. No casualties. Raider believed hit. (Naval Air Station, St. Merryn 1746/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Convoy E.N. 23 — Air Attack on E.N. 23 at 1815/11/11 off Aberdeen resulted in CREEMUIR being torpedoed and sank in three minutes. 13 survivors out of 42 landed from SS OBERON a.m.12/11 at Aberdeen SS TREBARTHA bombed and eventually sank in Cove Bay about midnight. 4 lost includes 3 W/T operators and 1 gunner R.A.F.. Remainder saved.

TREBARTHA Sunk

CREEMUIR Sunk

HARLAW Damaged — SS HARLAW bombed and entered Aberdeen midnight for repairs. No casualties, damage not serious. (C. in C., Rosyth 1207/12)

/(British.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy E.N. 23 TREBARTHA Sunk, Contd.

(British, 4597 tons) Attacked in convoy E.N. 23. Ashore in Cove Bay, 3 miles south of Aberdeen, on fire and holed both sides. About 50 survivors including many casualties returning to Aberdeen in SS OBERON. ABEILLE IV ordered to stand by, unable to approach owing to heavy sea. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2314/11 to C. in C., Rosyth) Attacked by one A/C at 1815/11. Gunner killed. Large fire. Five mains broken. Crew abandoned ship, were machine-gunned while doing so, and were picked up by OBERON. Ship total wreck at Souter Head 2 miles South Girdleness. Crew landed Aberdeen, 3 stretcher cases. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1232/12 to C. in C., Rosyth)

CREEMUIR

(British 3997 tons) OBERON reports seeing CREEMUIR torpedoed, sinking in 3 minutes, and picked up 13 survivors of crew of 42. (N.O.I.C. 1232/12 to C. in C., Rosyth)

HARLAW

Reports one glancing hit by Bomb and 2 near misses. Ship leaking and entered Aberdeen for repairs. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1232/12 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Mining

Sheerness

FIREFLY reports 1 red mine detonated at 2325/10. 305° N.E. Spit Buoy 1½ cables near inside. (Capt M.S. 0916/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Humber

Port is open (F.O.Humber 1045/11 to Admty) LL Trawler detonated following mines at 0300/11, 120° Spurn Point Light House 3.35 miles red inside Far at 1045, 20 yds S.W. magnetic from 1 A Buoy Red under Far this mine exploded fourth time over at 1446, 1 mile west magnetic of Chequer Shoal Buoy red inside Far. At 2120/10 heavy explosion reported in sky ½ mile E. of Bull Fort. Burning fabric seen to drop after explosion A/C was then seen proceeding and was plotted at 4000 ft. Possible mine hit by machine-gun fire. (F.O.Humber, 1901/11 to Admty.)

/Milford Haven.....

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Milford Haven	Port open subject to local restrictions. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1144/11 to Admty)
VEGA	Send ST MELLONS to assistance of VEGA mined near Sunk Head Buoy (C. in C., Nore, 1209/11 to LONDONDERRY) Harwich 11/11 departure of KENIA to assist VEGA (F.O.I.C. Harich 1257/11 to Admty.) Following from VEGA addressed C. in C., Nore, begins My 1059 near miss by acoustic mine 051° 46' 00" N., 001° 25' 00" E., engines, W/T and D/F completely out of action. Leak under control, am anchored in this position, 1231 ends. Tugs ST. MELLONS and KENIA ordered to tow VEGA to Harwich for examination. (C. in C., Nore, 1431/11 to Admty.) KENIA now assisting (ST. MELLONS, 1436/11 to C. in C., Nore)
Dover	Routine sweeps to noon/11. 2 mines found in QZX 200 (V.A.Dover 1421/11)
Explosions	No 38 Light Vessel reports heavy under-water explosion N.E. 100 yards. Two vessels bearing west course N.E. speed 10 knots, about 150 yards from explosion. GRIT (motor vessel) reports explosion near E. Margate Buoy 1150/11, abreast midships part of ship about 20 feet distant. Electrical steering gear out of action but no structural damage. (F.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1542/11 to Admty.) Analysis of reports from ships on patrol on night 10/11 shows following explosions etc., in Thames Estuary. Details. (S.O.T. L.D.F., 1615/11 to C. in C., Nore.)
Operation D.S. 46	Postponed 24 hours (TEVIOT BANK 1645/11 to Admty.)
Minelaying by Seaplane	1 Seaplane possibly minelaying 2735 (?) course 325° height 8000 ft. (Lowestoft 1741/11 to Admty.)

/Milford Haven.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Milford Haven

One red mine detonated by single LL 173°
Great Castle Head low light 9.7 cables.
Five ground mines self detonated as follows:
224° Great Castle Head low light 12.9cables.
162° Great Castle Head low light 8.4 cables.
84° St. Anns Light 13.2 cables.
89° St. Anns Light 6.4 cables.
114° St. Anns Light 5.1 cables.
The last three exploded approximately 200 yards from H.M.S. ROSEMARY within channel swept by LL sweepers today.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1829/11 to Admty)

Blyth

Port closed, suspected A/C minelaying. Expect to open 1300/12. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1849/11 to Admty.)

Sweep

My 1137/8 re Oropesa sweeps. Search completed 1 mile each side of 56° 36' 00" N. KELLET PANGBOURNE and ROSS sail from Grantham 12/11 to complete operation. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2259/11 to Admty.)

Minefields, QZH 202 and 209

HAVELOCK reports when passing S of minefield QZH 202 and 209, 4 mines were heard to explode between 1220 and 1330. One was a mile from ship but no wreckage was seen. Explosion appeared dangerous to surface navigation. 1643/10. Ends.
(C. in C., W.A. 2313/11 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Gironde

Report from TUNA suggesting that mines may have been laid inshore. (TITANIA 0101/11 to Admty.)

LUTZOW

My 1541/9. Position on 4/11 (N.A.Stockholm 1117/11 to Admty.

Lorient

1430. 2 S/M's in harbour (H.Q.B.C. 0247/12)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

MENDIP — My 1450/9. In tow of CHAMPION leaves 0900 today. Speed about 5 knots. (R.AD H.F. 0803/11 to C. in C., Rosyth)

CAPE ST ANDREW — (British, 5094 tons) Request immediate assistance. Engine broken down, will require tow. Position 55° 35' 15" N., 11° 10' W., (CAPE ST ANDREW Recd. 2350/11) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0404/12 to Tug SUPERMAN) CAPE ST ANDREW still urgently requires assistance (CAPE ST ANDREW 0451/12) Sailed SUPERMAN (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0505/12 to C. in C., W.A.) Position at 1659/12 was 55° 28' N., 11° 20' W., HURRICANE standing by (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1805/12) 35 survivors landed. 15 lost. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1117/15 to Admty.)

STELLA ORION — M/S Trawler. Sank about 262° 2 cables from N.W. Shingles Buoy. (C. in C., Nore 0947/12 to Adty.) Foundering. All hands taken off. (MARETTA 1135/11 to C. in C., Nore)

2 Rafts — A/P Trawler MORAVIA has landed 2 rafts marked Amsterdam picked up 9/11 on H.Q. Patrol. Particulars. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1320/11 to C. in C., Nore, and 0957/12 to Admty.)

EUPHORBIA — (British, 3380 tons) Out of control off St. Ann's Head and drifting rapidly. Can we enter Milford Haven (EUPHORBIA 1336/11) Very urgent. Drifting. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1537/11)

ENGLISH TRADER — (British, 3953 tons) In collision at 1230 in No 3 Dock, Methil with MORRIS ISLE, while undocking. Request surveyor be sent by A.S. Rosyth to inspect damage. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1450/11 to Admty.)

LL Trawlers
LACHENLA
FAR HYDE

See Movements.

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
	Situation at 2000/11. (C. in C., W.A. 1240/11
O.B. 239.	Not met. My p.c. and s. Passed O.B. 241 unescorted at 0800 (position) and W.N. 35 at 0930 (position) (BROKE to C. in C., W.A. 1105/11) Commodore O.B. 239 reports position 308° Tory Island 55 miles at 0930/11. (C. in C., W.A., 1239/11) REVENGE to cover O.B. 239, 240, 241. (C. in C., W.A. 1145/11)
O.B. 241.	Reported in position 55.47 N., 07.21 W., at 0800/11. If not in company report your p.c. and s (C. in C., W.A. to HURRICANE, VERITY etc., 1255/11) Your 1712/11 O.B.O. 241 did not sail. (C. in C., W.A. to VETERAN, 2255/11)
S.C. 10	Amended route to avoid minefield being laid on 12/11. (C. in C., W.A., 1007/11 to WALKER, VANSITTART, FOLESTONE)
O.B. 242	Amended route to avoid minefield being laid on 12/11 (C. in C., W.A. 1233/11 to WANDERER, WILD SWAN, CLARE, GARDENIA, HIBISCUS) Sailed 1115/11 (C. in C., W.A. 1236/11)
O.B. 243	Addition to my 1221/10 (N.C.S.O. Mersey to Admty. and C. in C., W.A. 1530/11) Ships in O.B.H. 243 are to be sailed to Clyde to await convoy (D.T.D. 2105/11)
S.L. 55	MORETON BAY to act as ocean escort. (C. in C., S.A., 1705H/11)
S.C. 11	Route. Escort, ENCHANTRESS to U.K. (D.T.D. 1221/11)
B.H.X. 88	Your 1651/10. To be sailed in accordance my 1654/9. My 1829/4 in cancelled (D.T.D. 1400/11 to C. in C., A.W.I)
H.G. 46 S.L. 53	R.V. altered to minimise risk of air attack. (D.T.D. 1924/11, 1925/11, to WELLINGTON, ARAWA, etc.,)
F.N. 30	Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER, damage from air attack 9/11. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1529/11)
H.X. 87 H.X. 88 S.C. 12	To be sailed in accordance with my 1654/9 (D.T.D. 1401/1)

/H.X. 86.....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys—Contd.

H.X. 86 — Sailing telgram (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1107/11 to Admty, VOLTAIRE, etc.,)

C.E. and C.W. — C. in C. Portsmouth's 1833/8. There are insufficient colliers available to produce the surplus suggested.
C.E. Convoy should be sailed within three days of the arrival of the C.W. regardless of whether it is up to the number of ships allowed. (D.T.D. 2107/11)

H.X. 84
Attacked by Raider 5/11. — Admty. 2218/10. Information from BONAVENTURE who spoke oiler ERODONA at 1700/7 in 56.01 N., 23.45 W., which vessel saw German armoured ship GRAF SPEE class sink JERVIS BAY and probably 6 other ships, last seen course south, 52.35 N., 32.13 W., BONAVENTURE and MASHONA searched area to leeward of sinkings (positions) No trace of wreckage or boats. (BONAVENTURE, 0115/11)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND with R.A.F. personnel ex W.S.4.A) reports leaving convoy 0310 G.M.T./5 and at 1900 G.M.T. in 51° 27' 30" N 32° 30' W., steering 260° true, received report raider attacking convoy in position north true distance 70 miles. Flash gunfire continually visibile between 1900 G.M.T. and 2100 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Montreal 1140/11)

Report of search by Town Class destroyers (LEAMINGTON, 1330/11 see Operations)

Sighted HJALMAR WESSEL, straggler from H.X. 84, with one other unidentified vessel inward bound in 57° N., 10.45 W., at 1715/10. (B.C.1. to Admty 1458/11) HJALMAR WESSEL arrived Oban 1800/11. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1830/11)

RANGITIKI, too rough to board, has been ordered up harbour (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1735/11)

All destroyers at St. Johns to search for wreckage of H.X. 84 (Admty, 2119/11) Your 2119/11. Route given in my 1129/8 allowed for drift to northward and S.O. was instructed to spread ships when passing through area. Master PACIFIC ENTERPRISE in H.X. 84 interviewed today stated S.E. gale occured following day. (F.O. 3 B.S., 2334/11)

/Information...

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Convoys	Shipping
H.X. 84 Attacked by Raider 5/11-Contd.	Information from SOLFONN, ex H.X. 84. of 36 ships in convoy, 19 have now been accounted for. (D.O.R. 11/11)
	All available Town Class destroyers to search towards 57.40 N., 32.30 W., (D.D.O.D. (H) to R.A. 3., 2119/11)
W.S.4.B.	Date of sailing. Composition. Ocean escort EDINBURGH. Fighter protection code word "Olive". (D.D.O.D. (H) 2121/11) Orders to EDINBURGH. (D.O.D. (H) 2114/11)
C.H. 5.	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0925/Z/11)
LEOPOLDVILLE	REVENGE to escort to Halifax (C. in C., W.A. 1145/11)
WESTERN PRINCE	Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool to A.C.W.A., 1531/11)

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BESSHEIM — Norwegian, under German control. Probably leaving Oslo today for the North. (V.A.S. 0826/11, to S/M's on patrol, Area A)

PARIS — Norwegian, under German control. Probably leaving Oslo 12/11 for the North (D.S. 433 11/11)

BALI, BRAVO I, SARDINIA — Under charter to Germans for sailings between Oslo and the North (D.S. 433)

ORINOCO — P.C.O. New Orleans reports ORINOCO loading large stores. Probably sailing soon. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1502/11 to C. in C., A.W.I.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA ODERO — Reported that all Italian ships at Puerto Cabello are interned, and that fuel oil taken by TERESA ODERO was for Harbour use only. (D.S. 433, 11/11)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MONIQUE — French tanker, 7011 tons. Lloyds report MONIQUE, which left Oran on 6/6 homeward bound from Haifa, said to have been sunk off French Coast later in that month. (D.S. 433, 11/11)

MOST SECRET

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0908 — D.F., very approx. position of homeward bound U/B, 47° N., 04° W., (V.A.S. 0959/11)

0319 — D.F., U/B between 61 and 63° N., 6° and 8° W., (D.D.I.C. 1049/11)

0214 — D.F., on Series "A" at 0214/11, unknown enemy unit. Bearings. (D.D.I.C. 0851/11) My 0851. Further bearings, message from Simonstown and Durban indicate transmission may have been from a U/B within 150 miles of 30° N., 20° W., (D.D.I.C. 1342/11) (See East Indies, North and South Atlantic) (F.O.C.N.A., 1057/11, 1609/11) My 0851 and 1342/11. Further bearings obtained from Ascension and Freetown. In view of great divergence of bearings no fix can be obtained. Conditions for D/F bad. (D.D.I.C. 1703/11)

Damaged Italian U-Boat — My 1744/11. Aircraft had to return owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A., 1127/11 to D. 5.) If not in contact by 2000 today proceed to Dartmouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1305/11 to D. 5.) My 1544/10. If not in contact by 2000 today, own forces are returning to Dartmouth. (V.A.S. to S/M's Area B. 1614/11)

Mediterranean

2245/3 — 6 miles S.S.E. Malaga. (See FOREIGN STATIONS)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian- 1 possibly in area 48° to 49° N., 9° to 11° W., proceeding to Bordeaux slowly. 1 may still be in Azores area.
German- 1 off Lorient inward bound.
3 possibly N. of 55° N., and W. of 15° W., of which 1 may be somewhere about 61° N., 21° W., another in area 57° to 58° N., 20° to 22° W., whereabouts of the third unknown.
1 more is probably N. of 55° N., and E. of 15° W., 1 in area 61° to 63° N., 6° to 8° W.
1 in area 61° to 63° N., 6° to 8° W.,
1 was in 61° 33' N., 3° 10' E., at 1504/10 course 020°.
(D.D.I.C. 1225/11)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

CANADA

French hospital ship, ready to sail from Liverpool for Gibraltar 12/11. F.O.I.C. Liverpool to sail her by route in my 1913/28 as soon as safe conduct which has been applied for is received. (D.O.D. (H) 1327/11 to C. in C., W.A. etc.,)

W. African Patrol

BULOLO and BRIDGEWATER patrolling S. of Freetown on line 230° St. Ann's Shoal. DRAGON further to S.E. off Cape Palmas. Object prevention of French Warships going to W. African Port, interception of French Merchant Ships and control of neutral traffic to French W. African Port. (C. in C., S.A. 0951/11 to Admty.)

RICHELIEU

Report from Command Bathurst believed reliable that RICHELIEU would leave 9/11 for Algiers. Not possible to check. (C. in C., S.A. 1403/11 to Admty.)

PONCELET

Your 1852/8. Investigation shows no British A/C or other British forces attacked PONCELET on 4/11 inside or outside territorial waters. On 7/11 she made a torpedo attack on MILFORD at 1423 without warning. Confirmed by PONCELET log. MILFORD sighted submarine for first time at 1547, 15 miles from Cape Lopez, she was subsequently signalled to stop but ignored signals and fire was opened. Submarine dived and re-surfaced, crew fell in on deck and PONCELET scuttled herself. Crew were picked up. For your information PONCELET was bombed by Free French Blenheims at Port Gentil 4/11. (Admty 1653/11 to N.A. Madrid amended 2102/11)

Submarine Patrols

My 1810/10. Patrol will be established E of Gibraltar a.m./14, details. Objects: by day to attack JEAN BART or RICHELIEU without warning. Not to attack French ships coming from Eastwards. By night to attack any darkened ship which attempts to pass straits in either direction accompanied by warning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1704/11 to Admty.)

Your 1704/11. Confirmed that information in para (d) of Admty 0404/3 had been communicated to Vichy Govt. (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 1424/11)

/TEMPETE.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

TEMPETE — Passed Gibraltar 1620/11 from west to east escorting P.L.M. 21. (S.O. (1) Gibraltar 1733/11 to Admty.)

INDOCHINOIS — My 1706/6 (re repatriation of passengers) request information whether arrangements are being made for a ship to call at Freetown to take passengers (C. in C., S.A. 2025/11 to Admty.)

French Ships, Lome — Collector of Customs, Kita, reports 1 French warship and French steamer stated to have arrived Lome 0011. These are probably the Vichy destroyer and merchant ship CARIMARE mentioned in my 1315/7, (C. in C., S.A. 2237/11)

Libreville — At 0515/10 the O.C.Troops Libreville requested end hostilities. Governor Masson believed left Libreville by air for Abidjan. Situation at Port Gentil not yet known. (G.O.C. Accra 2020/11 to War Office)

North Atlantic

ARGUS DESPATCH — ARGUS to adjust speed of advance, if fuelling necessary arrive Gibraltar 2200/3 if fuelling not necessary pass Europa Point at 0800/14, maintaining speed of advance 15 knots. Inform DESPATCH of intended plans. DESPATCH to part company when destroyer escort joins and arrive Gibraltar by about 1200/13. (S.O.Force H., to ARGUS, 1150/11)

Operation "White" — With Force H hampered by ARGUS and Mediterranean Fleet not in Central Mediterranean, warning of move by important Italian units to westward considered important. Request adequate reconnaissances Any bombing of west side of aerodrome possible (date) would assist. (S.O.Force H 1005/11 to V.A.Malta) Amending dates. (S.O.Force H, 1132/12, 1531/12)

/Italian S/M.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Italian Submarine Prisoners

My 1642/10 para 1 (re interrogation of Italian prisoners from Midget S/M) Second name should read Paccagnini. (F.O.C.N.A. 1046/11 to Admty.)

Enemy Unit

By D/F at 0214/11 an unknown enemy unit transmitted message from within 150 miles of Cape Race. Possibly shore station. (F.O.C.N.A. 1057/11 to S & A.N.A.Station)

My 1057/11. May be a U-Boat. Amend position to within 150 miles 30° N., 20° W., (F.O.C.N.A. 1609/11) (See U-Boat Campaign, S/M's Reported)

AGIA VARVARA (Greek 2433 tons)

Greek Minister reports AGIA VARVARA sailing from Bilbao 13/11 sunset for Lisbon was repeatedly reconnoitred a.m./11 in Port Bilbao by aircraft with German markings. (N.A.Madrid 1800/11 to Admty.)

Exercises. M.T.Ships

Your 1633/8 para H Concur proposals. Instructions for exercises on passage are being signalled direct to F.O.C. 18th C.S. (S.O.Force H., 1944/11 to Admty.) (S.O.Force H 1948/11 to F.O. 18 C.S.)

Operation Coat Completed

Operation Coat carried out by Force H according to plan, 8/11. One shadowing S. 79 shot down 038° 16' N., 003° 05' W., by fighters directed on by R.D.F. plotting. At 1330 ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, GLASGOW, and six destroyers proceeded ahead for attack on Cagliari.
9/11 Striking force of nine Swordfish flew off 0430 all returned by 0805. Five attacked hangers and buildings and obtained several hits causing one big explosion and fires. Remainder attacked seaplane at anchor, A/A ships, batteries and factories near power station, obtained one direct hit on latter. 35% bombs delayed action. At 0745 three Fulmars flew off for Malta. Forces F and B concentrated at 0920. At 1005 shot down one shadowing Cant. 506B 037° 30' N., 006° 48' E. At 1120 four flights each of five S. 79 delivered high level bombing attacks 037° 54' N., 007° 17' E. Of three fighter sections on patrol two able to intercept and engage but unable to break up formation. Fighters handicapped by lack of speed particularly Skuas.

/Some near.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operation Coat Completed-Contd.

Some near misses on ARK ROYAL, BARHAM, DUNCAN. A/A ship burst mainly short. See my 1920/10. No certains, one probable, and others possibly damaged by fighters. No further attacks during day and no indication of further shadowing. Forces F and B parted company at 1915, 037° 55' N., 009° 10' E. (S.O.Force H., 0723/11 to Admty.)

Operations White Collar

Re Admty. 1235/10. NEWCASTLE cannot yet sail. If she does not do so before 1800/12, Operation White is to be carried on without her. NEWCASTLE would then have to join operation Collar unless you can propose any other method of getting her to Malta earlier. If NEWCASTLE sails 12/11 Operation White is to take place 24 hours late. You may prefer to delay arrival of ARGUS at Gibraltar by 24 hours. Operation Collar must not be postponed, and if the two above are adopted, date could be adhered to by moving R/V with SHEFFIELD nearer to Gibraltar. (V.C.N.S. 2120/11 to F.O.Force H)

FOXHOUND

Your 1202/10 (re FOXHOUND joining 8th D. Flotilla) Approved (D.O.D.(F) 2125/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

DELHI

Expect to arrive Point B 1400/12 (DELHI 0925/11 to C.S. 1.) Your 2025/10. Full facilities Lagos, probably also Duala, nil at Victoria. (DELHI 0947/11 to C.S. 1) Cancel my 0925/11. Delayed by engine room defects. New time of arrival Point B., 1800/12 (DELHI, 1537/11, to C.S.1.)

CORNWALL

PRETORIA CASTLE arrived. My p, c and s at 0900N/11. Departures vide Admty 1435/4, HIGHLAND MONARCH. (CORNWALL 0901N/11)

/DANMARK.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

DANMARK	ex-Danish. Sailed Capetown 8/11 for Freetown with armed guard. Trouble with crew, Master pro-Nazi. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1020B/11 to S.O.I. Freetown)
DRAGON	Departure 0900/11 on patrol in accordance C. in C., S.A. 0951/11. (S.O.I. Freetown 1151 N/11)
Hospital Ship	My 1242/8/10. Dept. of Defence, Union of S.A., request for hospital ship still unsatisfied. Union now accepting Imperial casualties from Egypt, etc. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, to Admty. 1225/11)
D.F. Reports	Admty. 1342/11. (D.F. report- see U-Boat Campaign) Suggesting these bearings be treated with reserve. (C. in C., S.A. to Admty., 1635/11, 1935/11)
DEVONSHIRE	C.S. 1. leaving patrol in DEVONSHIRE and proceeding to Lagos (C.S.1. 1146/11) My 1146 For 13/11 read 12/11 (C.S.1.,2121A/11)
MORETON BAY	To act as ocean escort to Convoy S.L. 55 (C. in C., S.A. 1705N/11)
Wreckage	Following from S.C. (I) Montevideo. Norwegian tanker VARDEFJELL reports on 16/10 in 000° 12' N., 036° 33' W., she passed 2 rafts and later a lifeboat and wreckage painted yellow. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1938/11)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation White

Suspect Saint Elma aerodrome may no longer be used by bombers. Request confirmation by reconnaissance before operation White, and any information of other bomber aerodromes in Sardinia besides Alghero. (S.O. Force H., 0952/11 to N.O.I.C. Malta)

Greek Advance

Greek troops advancing on Epirus front across area between Acheron and Kalamos Rivers. Greeks request you bombard no land objective south of Kalamos River. (N.A.,Athens, 1012/11 to C. in C., Med.)
Military situation (M.A.Athens 0250/11)

Alexandria Air Raids

(N.O.I.C., 0840/11, see 10/11)

Submarine attacks on Destroyers

Repeating Capt S.I's 1131/10 to TRITON, TRUANT, OTUS. (V.A.Malta 0925/11)

Air Reconnaissance

(a) R.A.F. reconnaissance p.m./10 discloses no enemy activity at Valona, Santi Quaranta Konispol or Kalamos river bridges.
(b) One 7000 tons ship in Santi Quaranta unsuccessfully attacked.
(c) One unidentified ship sighted by coast watchers at noon today zig-zagging between Corfu and mainland possibly laying mines. (M.A.Athens, 1315/11)

Enemy Intelligence

Italians reinforcing Albania day and night especially at night. Owing to lack of facilities at Durazzo and Valona only four to five ships can be handled at the port every 24 hours.
Italians fear attacks by British Navy on lines of communication and by R.A.F. on these ports. (A.1.-)
Italians state British reinforcements to Greece are routed via Haifa and that Italians have prepared for this contingency. (A.3-)
(N.A. Angora, to C. in C., Med.,1106/11)

/Greek Coast.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.	Greek Coast watchers report one small ship at 1600 and 2 small ships at 1625, steering contrary courses 3 to 5 miles N. from Cape Lefkimo Corfu. (N.A.Athens, 1854/11 to C. in C., Med.)
TRITON OTUS	Orders to (V.A.Malta, 1907/11)
British Air Activity	R.A.F. reconnaissance p.m./11 sighted convoy of 9 large ships arriving Valona Bay escorted by aircraft at 1530. No enemy movements observed South Valona. R.A.F. are bombing Durazzo tonight (N.A.Athens, 1941/11 to C. in C., Med.)
U-Boat Report	British master reports sighting U-Boat 6 miles S.S.E. Malaga silhouetted against the moon 2245/3. (A.2) (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1407/11)
Suez Canal Employees	Urge action be taken without delay on my 112[illegible] /5. Pronouncement to be made by H.M.G. that for military reasons and/or attitude of Vichy Govt.'s control of Canal Company's affairs from France no longer admitted and will be vested in future in London Office. Failing some such action, deterioration in Canal Company's attitude with subsequent difficulties and possibly obstruction. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal 1932/11, 1941/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Raider Patrols CANBERRA CAPETOWN	My 1016/10. Amend. CANBERRA establish search in sector bounded by lines drawn 160° and 250° from position 04° N., 90° E. CAPETOWN act similarly in sector 270° to 315° from position 04° N., 90° E. Assume raider's speed 12 to 15 knots from 0230Z/11. Act at your discretion on receipt of any (?immediate) intelligence. (C. in C., E.I., 0418Z/11 to Force V) See also 1104/11, 1248/11.
AUTOMEDON, Raider Report	Matara intercepted incomplete R.R.R.R. report from British ship. AUTOMEDON at 0207Z/11 figures 418 N were read, remainder purposely jammed. Ship left Durban 29/10, due Penang 13/11 (C. in C., E.I. to Force V 0222Z/11)
CANBERRA	My 1836/10. Have felt it necessary to retain CANBERRA to assist in hunting down raider. Will release as soon as situation allows. Hope you approve. (C. in C., E.I., 0742Z/11 to A.C.N.B.)
CHAKDINA BHIMA PROTECTOR KANDAHAR (Storm)	My 2044/10., SHROPSHIRE made contact, CHAKDINA and BHIMA in tow in position 014° -02' N., 058° 40' E., at 0501Z/11. All now well and proceeding Bombay 7½ knots. Weather fair. PROTECTOR last seen about 0700/9 in position 014° 32' N., 057° 15' E., SHROPSHIRE and Oiler SLAVOL searching. KANDAHAR in approx. position 016° 07' N., 060° 10' E., at 0130Z/11 proceeding to Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 0744/11)
Operation "Rope"	My 1916/10. Intend DORSETSHIRE shall carry out operation "Rope" p.m./18. (C. in C., E.I. 0906Z/11 to Admty.)
D.F. Report	Your 0851/11 (See U-Boat Campaign) Bearings from Ascension and Freetown 312° and 280° respectively 3 maximum probable errors minus 8° and plus 5° respectively. Suggest transmitter more likely to have been German naval unit within 100 miles of position 10° N., 33° W., (C. in C., S.A. 1027N/11 to Admty.)

/Mombasa.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Mombasa — S.A.A.F. carried out 2 escort patrols Mombasa 11/11. 2 troopships, 2 warships escorted in, 1 warship escorted out. No enemy sighted. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1211/13)

WESTRALIA — My 0418/11. WESTRALIA proceeds now towards position 02.00 N., (?) 81° 30' E., using Walrus when practicable to find raider. (C in C., E.I., 1104/11)

CANBERRA
CAPETOWN — Search from dawn 12/11. CANBERRA and CAPETOWN are to resume search for raider furthest on circle in following sector, datum position and time and enemy's speed being as in my 0418/11. CANBERRS, 140° to 210°, CAPETOWN 210° to 240° (C. in C., E.I., 1248Z/11 to Force V)

American Ships — Request American ships bound for British ports on E Indies Station call Capetown or Singapore for information and instructions re channel (buoys, lighting restrictions, etc.,) (C. in C., E.I., 1844Z/11. to Admty)

China

Command Boundary — My 0743Z. Request immediate decision as C. in C., Far East passes through Singapore in a few days. In order to include all Andamans Island, etc., suggest a more suitable boundary that that given in Malaya tactical appreciation (C. in C., China, 0951Z/11 to Admty.)

LIVATHO — Your 2357/9. Wallem and Co, Hong Kong, claim Greek ship LIVATHO transferred to their ownership and Panama registered under name of HOOFSTAD on 28/10. Captain requires confirmation from Greek Govt., without which he is unwilling to change flag. Am not satisfied of genuiness of transfer. Ship being detained at Singapore. (C. in C., China, to Admty. 1005Z/11)

/Japanese Troops...

MOST SECRET

11.11.1940
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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

Japanese Troops

From Navy Dept., information of Japan's concentration of troops. No concentration of freight ships. Navy Dept., would probably have a fortnight's notice of this. (N.A.Washington, 1135/11 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

RANPURA Fire

Fire in after boiler room RANPURA at St. John N.B., 2/11. No casualties but damage to wiring. Repairs expected to take up to one month. (F.O. 3 B.S. to Admty 0951/11)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Admty. 1213/11, requesting route. QUEEN ELIZABETH expected to leave New York 2030 G.M.T./12. Date of arrival Port of Spain. (N.C.S.O. New York, 1214/11)

Town Destroyers

Your 1147/5. Officers and ship's companies for 6 destroyers will sail probably fourth week of November. Would you consider taking over HAMILTON, as you will be standing by her during repairs? (1st S.L. to C.N.S. Ottawa, 2041/11)

Search for H.X. 84 Survivors

Your 1129/8. All destroyers at St. John's fit to sail for U.K. are to be sailed as soon as possible towards 52.40 N., 32.30 W to carry out search for any wreckage or survivors of Convoy H.X. 84. (D.D.O.D. (H) to R.A. 3., 2119/11) Admty 2119/11. In absence of other instructions, destroyers are to proceed by shortest route to position quoted, and unless S.O. is satisfied with their machinery efficiency, they should not be spread at more than visibility distance during search. (F.O. 3 B.S. to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 2259/11)

New Zealand

Greek Shipping

My 00442/9. Suva reports further telegram received cancelling previous instructions (S.O.I. Wellington 03312/11 to Admty.)
Your 0044/9. Greek shipping Committee desire ALFIOS and EVINOS to remain at Nauru until final destination has been determined. (D.T.D. to S.O.I., Wellington, 1402/11)

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

R.N. Air Station Defences.	Adty.'s 1725/11. Particulars of Defences. (Hatston 0947/12) (Crail 1042/12) (Roborough 1035/12) (Lee 1100/12) (St. Merryn 1151/12) (Yeovilton 1200/12) (Donibristle 1253/12) (Eastleigh 1403/12) (Worthy Down 1415/12).
DELUGE	At 1130/12. (D.C. 1136/12). At 2330/12. (D.C. 2331/12).
Rosyth. Guns for Site R.N.C. 8.	Adty. 1617/10. Propose this be taken at next Meeting of C.O.S. A.A. shadow on 16/11. (Air Ministry 1256/12 to Adty.)

Movements.

Nore Command.	Dispositions for night 12/13. (C.in C. Nore 0800/12)
WORCESTERSHIRE	Leave patrol to arrive Clyde 0800/15 passing west of Trawlers on patrol S. of T.R. 36 and through 060° 008 N., 010° 00' W. Thence through Minches by route as in my 1010/7 and 065° 35' N. 007° 00' W. Speed 12 knots. (F.O.C. N.P. 1432/12).
EXMOOR, PYTCHLEY	On arrival of DOUGLAS, EXMOOR and PYTCHLEY are to return to Scapa. If oiler PRESTOL has less than 500 tons of oil remaining escort her back. (A.C.O.S. 1514/12 to EXMOOR and PYTCHLEY).
Portsmouth.	Movements for night 12/13. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1523/12).
Orkneys and Shetlands.	Trawler lines occupied tonight 12/13. (A.C.O.S. 1527/12). Positions at 2000/12. (A.C.O.S. 1539/12)
Western Approaches.	Movements for night 12/13 (C.in C. W.A. 1550/12).
Rosyth.	Movements for night 12/13 (C.in C. Rosyth 1558/12).
CANADA	My 1327/11. Notwithstanding instructions in para. 2 CANADA should be sailed on 14/11. (D.O.D.(H), 1738/12 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
VAILLANT, VIKINGS (Patrol Vessels)	Request proposed programme stating date ready to sail. (D.O.D.(H) 1747/12 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
LEOPOLDVILLE, HIGHLANDER, REVENGE	LEOPOLDVILLE and HIGHLANDER delayed by weather. Intend sailing 0900/13 request F.O.I.C. Greenock will sail REVENGE and escort to R/V in position 54° 30' N., 5° 06' W. at 1730/13. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1937/12 to Admiralty.).

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

My 2119/11 to R.A. (3) and my 2116/11 to CHITRAL. It is reported that JARVIS BAY was sunk in action with a raider, and that a number of other ships escaping to the southward were attacked and subsequently sunk.
BONAVENTURE carried out a short sweep to the north-eastward of this position. LINCOLN and her group searched the position for three hours. LEAMINGTON and her group finally swept through position some 36 hours later.
None of these ships saw any sign of wreckage, but the weather and visibility at the time was very bad.
(A.C.N.S. F. 0015/12 to R.A.3, CHITRAL).

A.M. 2056/11. BONAVENTURE sailed from Scapa at 2306/11 routed (a)56° 15' N. 15°W. (b) 43° N. 30° W. Speed of advance to (a) 26 knots and from (a) to (b) 21 knots.
(F.O.C. 1st C.S. 0157/12 to Adty.)

Admiralty 2015/11. My position at 2136Z/5 when course was altered to southward was 55° N. 34° 09' W. Owing to weather maximum speed which could be maintained during the night was 14 knots.
2. Original intention was to spread at dawn and search to leeward but visibility coupled with steering and wireless defects in other two ships decided me against this.
3. Fuel situation in LUDLOW was critical to the end. (LINCOLN 1145/12 to Adty.)

In order to identify the warship which attacked HX 84 detailed descriptions are to be obtained from officers and crews of any merchant ships which were present. Particular points to be noted are as follows. Descriptions to be signalled to Admiralty. (D.D.I.C. 1151/12).

F.O.C. 15th Cruiser Squadron in NAIAD with REPULSE, MATABELE, MASHONA, SIKH, PUNJABI, leaves Scapa 1230/12 routed through 0600 N. 005° 20' W. to R/V with LETITIA in position 062° 30' N. 012° W. at 1200/13 and comply with C.in C. H.F's 1246/9. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1247/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

My 2123/11. After careful calculation it is estimated that at 1200/12 the mean wind since date of attack on convoy has been westerly.
(2) Due to drift, wreckage or boats may now be expected in vicinity 53° 00'N. 27°30' W.

/ (3) .....

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

(3) Ships or boats would have probably drifted through the following positions: 53° 15' N. 52° 50' N., 53° 35' 32° 00' W., 53° 30' N., 30° 45' W., 54° 05' N., 29° 50' W. thence to 53° 00' N., 27° 30' W.
(V.C.N.S. 1436/12 to BONAVENTURE, CHITRAL).

My 2116/11 and 0011/12. Continue to keep W/T watch as for Northern Patrol.
(D.S.D.1732/12 and 0308/13 to CHITRAL)

Your 1234/12. Ref. Adty. 1151/12
Masters of vessels ex convoy H.X.84 report as follows:-
1 DELHI Swedish pennants 14.
time of attack 1710 - approx. zone time, about 2 hours West of Greenwich. Approx. position 53 N. 32 W. Weather fine and clear.
Enemy first seen port beam, 3 to 4 miles. Thought one of NURNBURG class. Can't say how many turrets - one funnel tower mast - 15 or 20 centimetre guns - saw JERVIS BAY hit on bridge by second salvo, also a tanker Ex HALIFAX hit. Convoy was turned to starboard DELHI then worked round and passed to northward of scene of action. At 1100/4 DELHI saw black cargo ship cross ahead of convoy from South to North ship about 8000 tons gross - painted standard merchant service colours - brown funnel and deck houses, flag on Gaff identified. Other ship steering about 350° at least 12 knots - no signals passed Captain of DELHI thought possibility two ships attacked convoy.

2. KJLAMAR-WESSEL - Norwegian. Pennants 31. Thought time of attack 1715 zone time - position 53 N. 32½ W. Weather fine and clear. Enemy first seen 3 points before port beam - distance about 5 miles - thinks it was cruiser not a pocket battleship - two turrets - one funnel - one tower mast. - Has a fragment of shell from enemy projectile which is being forwarded. JERVIS BAY ordered 40° turn to starboard just before enemy opened fire. Convoy made another 40° turn and received no more orders as JERVIS BAY was hit and burning. Master saw a cargo ship about 8000 tons cross ahead of the convoy from South to North during previous forenoon. Thought it might have been on East of the convoy - thought it was painted grey.

3. PERSIER - Belgian Pennants 22. Time of attack 1720 zone time - approximate position 55 N. 33 W. Weather fine

/ clear ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

clear and smooth. Enemy first seen 8 miles port beam. Chief officer who had seen GRAF SPEE at Montevideo thinks it was same class. One tower mast - guns made sharp bang rather than loud boom. At time of attack CORNISH CITY was in Pennants 61. JERVIS BAY was between Pennants 41 and 61 and turned towards the enemy When she was 2 ship's length ahead of Pennants 11 she was hit on the bridge after ordering 40° turn to starboard and a further 40° - PENELOPE went 10 miles to Westward and after 1900 returned to North East course until 2100 at which time there was still firing from Southward. At 2100 received S.O.S. from BEAVERFORD - Being shelled - latter ships being then about 30 miles to Southward namely 20 miles Southward namely 20 miles South Eastward of first position of attack. Also heard EMPIREPENGUIN report being shelled and sinking and CORNISH CITY and RANGITIKI being shelled. Between 11 and noon previous saw cargo ship right ahead of 6th or 7th column of convoy - about 8000 tons - red ensign - yellow funnel - at first thought it one of convoy but saw it leaving convoy at about 18 knots in the E.N.E. direction. Black hull - tall and thin funnel.

EMILE FRANCQUI Belgian. Sailed for Methil W.N. 36 11/11/40. No identification details except Master reported enemy shells on hitting water or target threw up a green light like a Verey's Light to height of 100 to 150 feet.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 2000/12 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

Iceland. HONNINGSVAAG reports that FRIDTJOF NANSEN ran aground and sank. No sign of ship mentioned in Adty. 1735/8. Am recalling OBUS. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1305/12 to Adty.) Your 1305/12. Every endeavour is to be made forthwith to capture or sink vessel referred to in my 2106/9. Ship may not arrive for several days. (A.C.N.S. H. 1949/12 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Dover. No Patrols tonight owing to stress of weather (V.A. Dover 1414/12 to Adty.)

Operation WHITE Channel cannot be considered clear of Mines and not safe to sail NEWCASTLE except in tow of Paddle Tugs. Heavy seas made this impossible today, but hope sail her P.M./13. (C.in C. W.A. 1614/12 to Adty.)

/Enemy Expedition at Jan Mayen Island. .....

MOST SECRET.

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12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

Enemy Expedition at Jan Mayen Island.

My 1755/5 to C.in C. Home Fleet and F.O.I.C. Iceland.

1. Information from Norway now indicates enemy may land very small but important armed scientific expedition at Jan Mayen Island between 0600/15 and 0600/17 approximately.

2. Expedition is to be captured regardless of any identity claimed and personnel with all apparatus and documents brought to Scapa.

3. F.O.I.C. Iceland has already sent two Trawlers but they may not be in time to forestall enemy.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2117/12 to B.C.I.)

Submarines.

Brittany Coast.

Evidence now shows that area in my 1546/4 was only projected and not actually mined. Restrictions cancelled but when patrolling close in normally to keep at least 5 miles to seaward of line Penmarch Belle Ile.
(Capt. S.2 to TRIDENT).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1711/12).

HOOD.

Cancel my 1939/8 re operating of HOOD in certain areas. (V.A.S. 1849/12, to S/M's on patrol in Area B (Negative))

British Air Activity.

A/S Patrol and Air Escorts.

Cross-over A/S Patrol near North Rona, and all Air Escorts, postponed on account of weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0826/12).

S.A. 1 E.

Patrol postponed owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0823/12) Patrol cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1242/12 to Adty.)

Nore.
S.A. 9.

No Air R/C during the Night. S.A.9 will be flown at 0830. (C.in C. Nore 0837/12 to C.in C. Rosyth).

S.A.1 A.

Postponed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1242/12 to Adty.). Cancelled owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1742/12 to Adty.)

ST. 1. }
ST. 2. }

Patrol ST.1 at 1415/13. Patrol ST.2 at 0900/13, but abandoned on 12/11 owing to weather (F.A.A. (?) Stornoway 1555/12 to A.C.O.S.)

~~Rosyth~~

Air Escorts for 13/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1724/12).

/ S.16 A. .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

S. 16A.)
S. 16B.) Cancelled owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1742/12 to Adty.)

W.2.)
Rona) W.2 Patrol will be flown in place of Rona Patrol until further notice. (C.in C. Rosyth 1954/12).

M.V. attacked. At 1250/12 A/C attacked with 2 torpedoes one M/V 6000 tons in 53° 34' N. 6° 37' E. Both missed. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/12 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

JACKAL shadowed One A/C shadowing me in 50° 32' N. 3° 9' W. (JACKAL 1049/12).

LILY. attacked. LILY (?) reports Bombs burning close in 55° 30' N. 9° 15' W. at 1028/12. (Base Ship, Scapa 1134/12).

Convoy ONSET. Enemy A/C bombing Convoy in 55° 42' N. 6° 49' W. (Plymouth W/T 1250/12).

BRITISH MARINER machine gunned (British Tanker, 6996 tons) Machine-gunned in 170° Start Point 3 miles. (Plymouth 1430/12).

Ramsgate bombed. My 1700 to V.A. Dover. At 1650 today one A/C dropped 3 H.E. Bombs on town. 8 houses demolished, 15 seriously damaged, 250 slightly damaged. 2 casualties believed killed and 2 slightly injured. No A/A guns in vicinity. Red warning not sounded. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1853/12 to Adty.)

Mining.

Blyth. Open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1439/12 to Adty.)

A/C mining of Plymouth 8/11. Your 1314/11 para. 2. Owing to presence of other aircraft which were being plotted by the only two R.D.F's no plots can confirm position of aircraft over Narrows.
Aircraft was seen approaching in glide from northward and two red lights were observed just before splash. After splash plane started up engine and disappeared to southward.
Height is believed to have been just above balloons but evidence on this point is inconclusive. No parachute was seen, or whistle heard and it was considered that mine and not bomb was dropped.
It is possible however that this deduction was incorrect.
(C.in C. W.A. 1616/12 to Adty.)

/ Plymouth .....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Plymouth. — Several Mines detonated spontaneously during the night, but Channel cannot be considered clear, and it would only be safe to sail NEWCASTLE in tow of Paddle Tugs. (C.in C. W.A. 1614/12 to Adty.) Since my 1946/10, 3 Mines detonated spontaneously. At 1800/11, 109° Penlee Point 1.5 miles. At 1950/11, 185° Breakwater Light 1.5 miles. At 0610/12, 019° Breakwater Fort 5.2 cables. All positions approximate. (C.in C. W.A. 1948/12 to Adty.)

S.N.43. — Completed. Intend sailing for S.N.45 probably A.M./13. (R.A.M.L. 1621/12 to Adty.)

Milford Haven. — 2 Ground Mines self detonated. One in 184° St. Ann's Light 2½ cables and one in 029° Great Castle Head Low Light 10¼ cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1647/12 to Adty.)

ARGUS. sunk. — (Trinity House Vessel). No. 38 reports ARGUS struck Mine 3/4 mile East of Mouse Light Vessel at 1653. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1659/12 to C.in C. Nore). ARGUS sunk in 199° 3 cables from South Oaze Buoy. ROYAL EAGLE picked up one sole survivor. ARGUS was proceeding at slow speed after putting 5 reliefs on board Mouse Light Vessel. (C.in C. Nore 2225/12 to Adty.)

S.N. 45. — My 1621/12. Intend sailing 0900/13 to lay S.N.45, starting at 1245 and finishing at 1600. ETA. Port ZA 0700/14. (R.A. M.L. 2140/12 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units. — Positions of following 7 ships not known since late October. (V.A.S. 1526/12 to S/M's in Area A).

Norwegian Coast. — German W/T traffic indicates possibility of movement by German Force from Trondheim area to Skaggerack in the near future. (D.D.I.C. 2019/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

4 Fishing Vessels. — At 1403/12, 4 Fishing Vessels steering 135° in line ahead in 55° 35' N. 6° 5' E. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/12 to Adty.)

/ PRINCESS RAGNHILDE ....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Continued)

PRINCESS RAGNHILDE

My 1143/29 para. (f).
(1) Norwegian woman survivor from Tromso saved from PRINCESS RAGNHILDE sunk about 23/10, states vessel carried among passengers about 300 German army cadets most of whom were lost. She added that vessel carried ammunition and that explosion which sank vessel was not due to mine but ammunition. C three.
(2) Two prominent Norwegians from Oslo shipping circles state that a Christiansand Germans offer 10,000 kroner for services of coastal steamers to carry ammunition from Christiansand to Northern ports.
B two. (N.A. Stockholm 1717/12 to D.N.I.)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PORTHCARRACK — (British, 406 tons). Grounded and broke up during westerly gale in about 51° 27' N. 30 37' W. at 2330/11. 4 rescued, 1 drowned, 3 missing. (O.I.C. Cardiff 1004/12 to Adty.)

FRIDTJOF NANSEN. — (Norwegian Fishery Protection Vessel) Ran aground and sank. See Operations.

EAGLESCLIFFE HALL. — (British, 1900 tons) S.O.S. Drifting ashore 10 miles South of South Stack. (EAGLESCLIFFE HALL 1309/12) Drifting ashore near Menai Strait entrance. Position becoming very grave (Seaforth Radio 1319/12) Now beaching at Multrath Bay and abandoning ship. (Seaforth Radio 1449/12).

WIVERN. — WIVERN's 2322/6. Propose repair broken housing locally. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1315/12 to Adty.)

WITTE ZEE. — (Rescue Tug) Ashore in about 51° 32' 30" N. 4° 13' 30" W. Likely to become total wreck. All crew rescued. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1350/12 to Adty.)

ANNE DE BRETAGNE. — British ship BERWICKSHIRE arrived today with 31 French Fishermen crew of French Barquentine ANNE DE BRETAGNE which was in collision with BERWICKSHIRE in 043° 41' north 032° 15' west at 0500/2/11. Crew state ANNE DE BRETAGNE bound from St. Pierre Newfoundland to French Morocco. Ship had to be abandoned and was subsequently sunk by gunfire by BERWICKSHIRE as danger to navigation. Presume your 1222/29/10 refers. (C.in C. S.A. 1942/12 to Adty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

S.L. 53. H.G.46.	2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th escort groups required to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1343/12, to WANDERER, ARROW, VETERAN, etc.).
S.L. 55.	MORETON BAY left 1730/12 as ocean escort. (S.O.I. Freetown 1841 N/12).
S.C. 10 B.	R.V. for DERBY COUNTY at 1400/13. (C.in C. W.A., 1729/12).
S.L.F.52 S.C.9.	S.L.F. 52 arrived 3 ships, S.C.9 overdue ship arrived ALGARVE, POLYKARP (Du) MERKEL (Du) (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1210/12).
H.X.86.	Bermuda departure times, escort MONTCLARE (C.in C. A.W.I., 1103/12).
O.B.M. 243.	Sailed for Clyde, 1715/12. Escort ROSEMARY (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1931/12).
F.N. 33.	My 0221/8. Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth 1519/12).
E.N. 24.	Cancelled, weather. Ships will be included in E.N.25 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1627/12).
C.E.16.	Postponed, weather. (C.in C. Nore 0939/12)
O.B.243.	Weatherbound at Liverpool, Clyde, Oban and Belfast portions not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D., 1305/12).
H.X.85.	Date and route. Escort RAJPUTANA, returns Halifax. (D.T.D. 1823/12) Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1355/11).
Ships' W/T.	In view of Admty. 1906/29 and the fact that oscillating is still occurring it is proposed to commence with H.X.87 to seal W/T office of all ships in convoy except a few selected ships, with orders that seals are not to be broken except in fog or emergency or by orders from Commodore. After fog or emergency has passed Masters are to be ordered to again seal ships own W/T office and full report why it was opened and for how long is to be made to N.C.S.O. at Port of arrival. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1519/12 to C.in C. A. and W.I.)

H.X.84
(raider attack
5/11).

.....

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

H.X.84. (raider attack 5/11) — N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1632/11. Request all possible information from survivors of JERVIS BAY now in Sedish STUREHOLM. No Press publicity of losses until released in London. (D.D.I.C. 1131/12, to R.A. 3 B.S.)
GLOUCESTER CITY arrived here 2100 G.M.T. with 7 boatloads of survivors of H.X.84. Total landed 92 - TREWELLARD, 25; SAN DEMETRIO, 23; FRESNO CITY, 24; KETBANK HEAD, 20. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F., 2121/12) See also America and West Indies.

Troop Convoys.

LADY OF MAN. — Your 1915/10 (sailing of 900 troops from Douglas). VANQUISHER detailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool to Admty. 1210/12).

DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. — Route and E.T.A. in 10° W. (D.T.D. 1058/12, 1303/12.

PASTEUR — Route and E.T.A. in 10° W. (D.T.D.1058/12, 1303/12.

CAMERONIA. — E.T.A. 10° W., and route. (D.T.D. 1303/12)

ALMEDA STAR. — E.T.A. 10° W., and route. (D.T.D. 1303/12)

WESTERN PRINCE. — My 1531/11. Sailing postponed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1010/12).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Recognition Signals. Your 1919 N/10, re issue of recognition signals to Free French aircraft. Concur. (D.S.D., 1734/12, to C.in C. S.A.)

CUBA Examination. Your 1733/12. CUBA has now been rummaged by Customs staff in co-operation with Naval Officers. Cargo reported in order by Comptroller of Customs and no trace of gold or valuable cargo. Captain has not been informed that ship will be released, but thinks there is a possibility of this. Arrangements are being made for interviewing the Naval officers and ratings and merchant officers and crew.
Request earliest information as to financial terms for Naval and Military personnel willing to join (A) Free French or (B) British, Service. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty., 1853/12).

STRASBOURG, Dakar. Re Sierra Leone telegram 529 of 8/11 to S. of S. and my 2000/5 (information from French officer escaped from Dakar) and my 1731/12, consider there is no suggestion French battle-cruiser STRASBOURG was at Dakar 29/10 when these officers left, and that report that she arrived at Dakar shortly after incident is not reliable. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty. 2015/12).

KUTRA SIRAIA Reported left Casablanca for Dakar 7/11
(See French Merchant Ships)

PONCELET crew. No.1539. Officers and crew of PONCELET, scuttled off Libreville, are now in internment camp at Ibadan being treated as undesirable aliens. Grateful for early instructions as to their disposal, and treatment pending removal. Camp urgently required by military.
(Govr., Nigeria, No. T.O.O./11 to S. of S., received 0115/12).

Preparations to intercept JEAN BART, RICHELIEU. See North Atlantic.

Enemy Intelligence. My 2009/5. Information from Lieut. Bertrand Garde (corrupt group) Indigene who escaped from Dakar with Lieut. Montezer.
(1) Cruisers GEORGES LEYGUES and MONTCALM were still at Dakar. Both seen by him 29/10, the day he left. No Destroyers then present.
L'AUDACIEUX (2) The Destroyer beached and burnt out at Rufisque 23-25/9 was L'AUDACIEUX casualties 100 killed. The other Destroyer damaged during action sailed for Casablanca after temporary repairs.
(3) Prisoners held include 8 Officers of De Gaulle forces and 6 British airmen held at Koulikoro in Sudan.

/ (4) .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Contd.)

L'AUDACIEUX (contd.)

(4) Information about RICHELIEU is conflicting. Bertrand says she is resting on bottom and cannot be moved. Montezer stated that she is moved about harbour at intervals and further report in my telegram 1403/11 states she was leaving. Request may be informed if any other information is available. (C.in C. S.A., 1731/12, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

Preparations to intercept JEAN BART, RICHELIEU.

C.in C. S.A. 1403/11. Air reconnaissances will be established to westward at dawn. ARK ROYAL at short notice ready to go to sea and fly off striking force if ordered to attack. RENOWN expected 1515 with 2 destroyers will be fuelled and kept at short notice. 3 destroyers expected from Malta p.m./13. Owing to defects and escort duties only one destroyer is available here now. 1 submarine expected to be ready for sea p.m./12. (F.O.C.N.A., 0040/12).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Can ROYAL SOVEREIGN be used for "Collar" if required? (F.O., Force H, 0846/12, to Admty.)

Force H.

Cancel my 1150/11. ARGUS to arrive Gibraltar 2200/14. Relief for WRESTLER being arranged. Fuel permitting, DESPATCH to remain with ARGUS parting company so as to arrive Gib. by 1200/14. (S.O. Force H 1209/12).

Operation White postponed.

Your 2129/11. Propose to postpone "White" 24 hours. This will also enable NEWCASTLE to be passed through if she is delayed up to a further 48 hours after 1800/12. Further reasons. (F.O. Force H to Admty., 1132/12, amended 1531/12).
Your 1132/12 re postponement of "White". Approved. (D.O.D. (F), 1609/12 to F.O. Force (H))
Your 2129/11 request NEWCASTLE be sailed at highest speed practicable.
(S.O. Force H, 1622/12 to Admiralty).
Hopes to sail NEWCASTLE p.m./13.
(C.in C. W.A., 1614/12, to Admty.)

D.F. Report.

My 1609/11. Due to poor D.F. conditions this position cannot be accepted as even approximate. (F.O.C. W.A., 1213/12).

/DOMINE Intercepted ....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

DOMINE Intercepted. Your 1835/9 Spanish s.s. DOMINE stopped by British trawler. 50 out of 500 mail bags were removed on 28/10 as it was suspected they contained enemy correspondence and propaganda. This suspicion found to be correct. My 1204/12 refers to policy in such cases. (F.O.C.N.A. 1206/12 to N.A. Madrid).

Movements. WEBSTLER leaves position 038° 15' N. 012° 48' W. 1600/13 E.T.A. at Gibraltar 1600/14 ARGUS escorted by WISHART and VIDETTE E.T.A. at Gibraltar 2200/14 DESPATCH E.T.A. at Gibraltar 1200/14. KINGSTON TOPAZ on patrol off (?Lisbon), KINGSTON TURQUOISE on patrol off (?mainland). ARGUS leaves Gibraltar 1800/12 speed 15 knots to patrol off Azores. ROCHESTER arriving Gibraltar 16/11 from U.K. course and speed unknown. (F.O.C. N.A. 1530/12 to TRIUMPH).

Enemy Agent, Algeciras. British S.S. SHAFTESBURY arrived Mobile 8/11. Master reports intercepting the following at 0009 GMT 1/11 on 33 metres (begins) Number ten Algeciras, British convoy of 60 ships left Gibraltar Thursday accompanied by destroyers, patrol boats and armed auxiliary ships. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1714/12).

South Atlantic.

Coaling Freetown. My 1633/10/S. Ships can now be supplied with up to 400 tons coal at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1035/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Hospital Ship. Your 1225/11 (request for Hospital ship still unsatisfied) not understood in view of my 2231/7. (D. of S.T. 1957/12 to (N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

NEPTUNE, DEVONSHIRE Possibility of armed raider makes it necessary to strengthen escorts for troop convoys. NEPTUNE to proceed to Lagos and C.S.1 requested to transfer flag to her on arrival. Further signal will be made re DEVONSHIRE's movements. (D.O.D. (F), 2334/12 to C.in C. S.A.).

DEVONSHIRE. Important it should not be known DEVONSHIRE will be leaving patrol off Libreville. (D.O.D. (F), 2337/12 to C.S.1.)

/ HERMES
S.A.A.F. A/C. .....

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HERMES
S.A.A.F. A/C.

C.in C. S.A. 2025/6. HERMES left Simonstown 1500/12 to establish patrol from position 180° 200 miles from Cape of Good Hope as far south as can be covered according to weather conditions, using aircraft if possible during daylight hours. Coastal aircraft of S.A.A.F. are maintaining seaward daylight patrol from Cape of Good Hope and Cape of Receiffe to a depth of 200 miles. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530 Z/12).

DELHI.

Coming transfer to China. (See China Station).

Mediterranean.

Taranto Bombed, Italian Battleships Damaged, Operation "Judgment".

Attack on Taranto by F.A.A. night of 11-12/11. A/C report torpedo hit with Duplelx pistol on one LITTORIO and 2 CAVOURS. Bombing results not observed, but fires started. 2 Swordfish failed to return. If conditions favourable hope to repeat attack tonight before defences strengthened. (C.in C. Med., to Admty., 0805/12).

Air reconnaissance Taranto 1040 G.M.T., six battleships, seven cruisers, about 23 destroyers or torpedo boats. Of total of six cruisers in inner harbour, four cruisers being moved from wall. One of six battleships was under water. One other battleship in outer harbour definitely in trouble, number of small boats all round it. Battleship under water was one nearest southern jetty. Battleship in trouble was one nearest the Island in harbour.
At 1055 G.M.T. two merchant vessels and one destroyer 16 miles N.E. of Cape Alice course 360° 8 knots, destroyer course 170° 12 knots.
T.O.O. 1525/12. (V.A. Malta, 1539/12).

Details of Damage.

Have examined Taranto photographs carefully. Appears that (a) 1 LITTORIO class is down by bows with forecastle awash and a heavy list to starboard. Numerous auxiliaries alongside. (b) 1 CAVOUR class is beached opposite entrance to graving dock under construction. Stern including Y turret is under water. Ship is heavily listed to starboard. (c) Inner harbour. 2 cruisers are listed to starboard and are surrounded by oil fuel. (d) 2 auxiliaries off Commercial Basin appear to have sterns under water. Congratulations on a great effort. Our small contribution today 1 MACCHI 200 and 1 corpse.
(V.A. Malta, 2031/12, to C.in C. Med.)

/ My 2031/12. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

My 2031/12. Stem only of Northern CAVOUR class battleship shows on photograph but by fixing from entrance of Passagio Piccolo which also just shows the bow is in about 4 fathoms. Oil round the stem, seems certain ship has been beached. The remaining one LITTORIO and 2 CAVOUR class battleships appear undamaged.
(V.A. Malta, 2345/12).

Malta Report, Taranto, Enemy Intelligence, Malta Raid.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 12/11 all times G.M.T. 134° to2556 Sunderland 228 Sqdn. carried out moonlight patrol Gulf of Taranto to report Units of Italian Fleet leaving Taranto Harbour. Nil report. Recco Eastern Ionian Sea from Malta included photographs recco. Gulf and Harbour Taranto. 0745 to 1235 Glenn Martin at 1040 reported Taranto 6 battleships 7 cruisers and about 23 destroyers or torpedo boats, 6 of these cruisers in inner harbour. 1 battleship disabled and down by stern and another surrounded by small boats appeared in trouble - photographs confirm. At 1055 2 M.Vs and 1 destroyer position 16 miles North East Cape Alice M.Vs course 360° speed 8 knots. Destroyer course 170° speed 12 knots. 1022 to 1435 Blenheim at 1410 saw 1 Italian schooner position 15 miles East of Cape Passero marked V S T O M on close investigation she opened fire with mgs. inaccurately. 1437, Sunderland of 230 Squadron. Moonlight patrol Gulf of Taranto to report enemy naval units leaving Harbour. Due back 0001 hours. 0840 to 0900 6 Macchi 200's in pairs crossed Malta at 20,000 feet. Formation split up by accurate A.A. fire. 6 Hurricanes 2 Gladiators up. 1 Macchi 200 shot down by Hurricanes into sea. (H.Q. Malta 1745/12)

Valona Bombed.

About 2340/11 G.M.T. Taranto broadcasting S.O.S. from Italian RANB III and ANTONIO LOCATELLI stating they were being bombarded off Valona. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 0423/12) R.A.F. carried out extremely successful raid Sordinori, Valona, last nightand report that 2 big ships were burning fiercely about 16 miles west of Valona about 0300. Fires were so fierce that tankers are suggested. (N.A. Athens, 0049/12, to C.in C. Med.)

Greece 11/11, ...

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Greece 11/11, 1335 hours. 3 Blenheims 30 Sqdn. bombed harbour and aerodrome Valona from 18,000 ft., bombs falling on large building on aerodrome and on docks. Details damage not observed. Intense A/A fire encountered. All aircraft returned safely. Blenheims 30 Sqdn. maintained steady fighter patrols Athens area. No enemy sighted. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1318/12) Later attack, night of 11-12, see (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1211/13)

Raid on Durazzo.

During night of 11-12/11, R.A.F. made a most successful attack on Durazzo. Report 3 fires started on the jetty later merged into one, visible 100 miles away. Fuel depot destroyed. Pilot leading the raid said "It was the best raid the Squadron has done since the outbreak of the war". (The Times Correspondent, Athens, 13/11, in The Times 14/11) (See H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1211/13).

Otranto Raid, Enemy Convoy Attacked. 7 C.S.

My 1357/4. 7th C.S. NUBIAN and MOHAWK raided into Strait of Otranto night of 11-12/11. Convoy of four merchant ships escorted by two destroyers proceeding westward encountered at 0115 off Valona. One merchant ship sunk, two left burning and almost certainly sunk, one thought to have escaped in smoke screen but probably damaged. Escorting destroyers escaped but one hit. No damage or casualties to our ships. (C.in C. Med., 1459/12)

M.E. Air Report.

Egypt 11/11. 113 Squadron located 1 submarine and 1 merchantman 5,000 tons 6 miles off Ras El (32° 38' 23° 9' E.) proceeding north west. No other shipping off-shore between Derna and Barrani. No change Derna. 9 seaplanes Bomba. Day 11/11. A Hurricane 33 Squadron despatched to attack enemy seaplane reported by 113 Squadron at Sollum failed to locate it. 2 Blenheims 55 Squadron and a Valentia of 216 Squadron attached 202 Group bombed the enemy aircraft reported concentrated at Barrani by 113 Squadron. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1318/12).

/ Air Bombing, Benghasi, Derna Tobruk. ....

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.(contd.)

Air Bombing, Benghasi, Derna, Tobruk.

Night 11-12/11. Blenheims 113 Squadron attacked shipping Benghasi and hangars Berca destroying 2 bombers and damaging other aircraft and buildings at Berca. Several warships anchored off Benghasi as A.A. guard ships. 5 Blenheims 113 Squadron attacked the barracks at Derna demolishing some buildings. 7 Blenheims 55 Squadron bombed Tobruk foreshore starting a large fire which was seen at great distance by aircraft of 113 Squadron returning from raid one hour later. Blenheims 55 Squadron also attacked Bardia. Between 2040 and 2100 hours enemy aircraft operating singly dropped a few bombs along coast South East of Aboukir at Helwan at Suez and 8 miles South East of Kabrit. Lighthouse and Government buildings set on fire at Suez. No other damage or casualties reported.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1317/12).

Enemy Air Raid, Suez.

Enemy Routes.

TETHARCH reports approach channel appearing in direction 60° from 31.42' N., 19.30' E., 10 miles wide. Eastbound convoys making night passage at 7 knots to cross 100 fathoms line at dawn.
(N.O.I.C. Malta to ROVER, 1307/12).

Operation "White".

NEWCASTLE

Your 1005/11. Operation White. Watch on main Italian Fleet in Taranto and Brindisi will be maintained. Search ahead of your force to northward of Cape Bon and Galita Island will be carried out to locate any Italian units liable to encounter NEWCASTLE during final run. Reconnaissance of Cagliari in accordance your 0952/11 is being carried out on 13/11. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1927/12) Hoped to sail NEWCASTLE p.m./13
(C.in C. W.A. 1614/12, to Admty.)

Alexandria Raids.

Air raids 1937 to 2037 and 2056 to (?)2124. Two bombs, no casualties, no damage. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1132/12) Air raids, 1900 to 1945, about 15 bombs, 2000 to 2100 about 12 bombs. Slight damage to 2 mercantile transit sheds and Ras El Tin. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 2232/12)

Operation "Collar".

Admty. 1333/8. Concur with proposals
(C.in C. Med. 1534/12)

/ Greece. .....

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.(contd.)

Air Bombing, Benghasi, Derna, Tobruk.

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/ Greece. .....

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece. Situation Report. (M.A. Athens to W.O. 0300/12).
Instructions to Military Mission, Greece, handed to General Heywood. (W.O., to C.in C. M.E., 0330/12).

Gulf of Athens. Learned from most secret source that Greek navigation instructions for Gulf of Athens are known to Italians. Request pass this information to Greek Chief of Staff. (C.O.I.S. to M.A. Athens, 1029/12).

Greek Naval Action, Otranto. Greeks planning raid into Straits of Otranto night of 14-15/11, by 5 T.B.D's of HYDRA and KING GEORGE class. Grateful for cover against interception by forces from Taranto. Also propose to make another raid preferably by day if you can provide cover.
Efforts being made to put up air reconnaissance over Italian Southern Adriatic ports 13/11 and 14/11. (M.A. Athens to C.in C. Med., 1836/12).

Italian Morale. Objectives. Reports from Greek Diplomatic and Consular Corps returned from Italy. Low state of Italian morale. VULCANIA, SATURNIA, (4?) ships of AUGUSTUS type and many other merchant vessels lying in Port of Genoa. Other objectives suggested are shipyards at Sestri Ponente. (Service Attaches, Athens, 2000/12).

Italy and Corfu. Transmitting message from Greek Ambassador, Angora, 2200/11, of information from Rome that Italian Fleet concentrating at Taranto for air attack on Corfu. (Service Attaches, Athens, 2203/12)

East Indies.

PROTECTOR tug. My 1836/10. For H.M.S. PROTECTOR read tug PROTECTOR (in company with CHAKDINA) (C.in C. E. Indies, 0402 Z/12).

Patrol off Kismayu. Italian A/C en route to Italian East Africa landed in Crete. Cargo was lubricating oil, which shows how short Italians must be, and necessity of establishing a patrol off Kismayu to prevent supplies reaching them. In spite of your shortage of ship, it is necessary for this patrol to be instituted with as little delay as possible. (1 S.L., to C.in C. E.I., 0114/12).

/ COLOMBO. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

COLOMBO.

COLOMBO to leave Mombasa a.m./13 to patrol off Kismayu to intercept shipping and dhows using the port. To report longest time she can remain on patrol so as to arrive Mombasa with 15% fuel remaining and allowing for most economic steaming whilst on patrol. (C.in C. E.I., 0446 Z/12).
Your 0446/12. Expect to be able to remain on patrol until a.m./26/11. (COLOMBO, 1704Z/12 to C.in C. E. Indies)

Policy Patrols and Escorts.

Admiralty 0114/12. This had been arranged. My policy has been to establish this patrol whenever cruisers have been available from escort duty, allowance being made for short spell in harbour for rest and maintenance. Due to external docking and a heavy demand for escorts the shortage of ships is acute and in consequence patrols have been (? few) and trade routes have remained unprotected except for the occasional free ship making passage to pick up next convoy or keep its docking date. I appreciate help I have had in Indian Ocean and Red Sea from cruisers remaining with convoys from U.K. and others homeward bound but, even should this continue, I am not hopeful of being able with present forces to maintain a permanent patrol off Kismayu unless this is to take precedence of escort, which I assume is not the intention. The fact that Italians are forced to transport lubricating oil supplies by air to East Africa suggests to me that our present measures are successfully preventing supplies reaching there by sea. However I realise that these measures must be tightened up to utmost and every effort is being made to do so.
(C.in C. E.I. 1910Z/12 to Admty.)

CANBERRA.

Your 0742Z/11. In view of A.C.N.B.1216Z/10, CANBERRA not now required at Fremantle until (date), but in any case she should be retained if prospect of hunting down raider. (A.C.N.B., 0215Z/12 to C.in C.E.I.)
My 0215Z in addition PERTH, CANBERRA is required to escort U.S.7 from Freemantle to Colombo. Request release to arrive Freemantle a.m./21/11, but if not possible due to present operations convoy will be delayed. (Naval Board, Melbourne, 1720Z/12 to C.in C. E. Indies).

/ Local Defence. .....

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Local Defence. Admty. 1541/8.
(i) Ceylon Government approve provision Ceylonese personnel for installation and manning but will not commit themselves to meeting pay and allowances without further information.
(ii) Matter is being taken up by Brigadier Ceylon.
(iii) As Naval responsibility is confined to provision of gun, mounting and ammunition, request (a) Colonial Office may inform Seychelles (b) War Office may conduct any further negotiations necessary regarding finance, and may provide any subsidiary equipment required. (C.in C. E.I., 0802Z/12 to Admty.)

CANBERRA
CAPETOWN
WESTRALIA
DURBAN

Movements ordered after dark 12/11. CANBERRA proceeds to search during daylight 13/11 an area (defined) CAPETOWN returns to Colombo at best speed. WESTRALIA proceeds 12 knots to 002° 00' S., 073° 00' E. to cover shipping. DURBAN to extend patrol from vicinity of Achin Head to 003° N., 088° E. (C.in C. E. Indies, 1028Z/12 to Force V).

LEANDER KINGSTON — Arrival 1930Z/12/11. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1125Z/12 to Admiralty).

Convoy B.M.04 — Details. Escort RANCHI and HECTOR to Gulf of Aden, then Force Q. Route. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0905Z/12).

British Prestige. — Kamaran No.48 to Information Officer, Aden (begins) remarkable rise in British stock apparent throughout Yemen (corrupt group) due to action of KIMBERLEY, victory Calabat, and operation KASSBOA. British successes openly appreciated everywhere (Ends). (S.N.O. Red Sea Force, 0609Z/12).

French Shipping. — My 0908/7 re summaries of manifest of French ships sent into British Ports and subsequently amended signals are now to be taken as applying to all French ships sent into a British port for examination. (C.in C. E.I. 0528/12).

Massawa Bombed. — Day 11/11. 0930 hrs. 3 Blenheims 14 Squadron attacked main quays and destroyer base, Massawa from 14,500 feet, bombs falling south of target on buildings in town. 5 Blenheims 45 Squadron attacked petrol dump Zula from 15,000 feet, encampment Keren from 3,000 feet and W/T Station, Dohul Island from 2,000 feet. 2 small fires started in camp at Keren, other targets missed. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1318/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

M.E.I. Navy Co-operation.

My 12132/9. Changed attitude of Govr. Gen., Dutch E.I. Is asking permission to send officer to Singapore for co-operation in plans.(C.in C. China, 02812/12, to Admty.)

LIVATHO

My 1005/11. Greek Consul Gen., Shanghai, states his Government has forbidden transfer of flag. (C.in C. China, 0257 2/12, to Admty.) My 0257. LIVATHO has been allowed to sail under Greek flag to Calcutta. (C.in C. China, 10032/12, to Admty). Your 1005/11. Case reported to Greek Shipping Committee who are investigating transfer of flag. (Ad. of M. to C.in C. China, 1795/12).

DELHI.

Necessary boiler tubes be renewed before May 1941, work to be undertaken at Singapore. If situation allows, intended that a D class cruiser from China Station should transfer to S. Atlantic Station prior to this and that DELHI should subsequently transfer to China Station. Ship selected to meet DELHI at Mauritius to exchange station orders. C.in C's China and S.A. to propose dates for this transfer. (D.O.D. (F) 1806/12).

America and West Indies.

JERVIS BAY and M.X.81 survivors.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1632/11. Request soon as possible all information from survivors of JERVIS BAY now in Swedish STURSHOLM. Identity of raider of great importance. (D.D.I.C. to R.A. 3 B.S. 1131/12).

Your 1131/12.
Evidence of survivors definitely tends to show that enemy had one triple turret forward and one aft foremast with control top and one funnel, but due to long range of about 14 miles details could not be observed. All survivors state that only one enemy ship present. First two salvoes were six guns, and third put fore control, steering gear, and W/T in JERVIS BAY out of action. Ship never got within gun range but held enemy fire and was continuously hit for 55 minutes, subsequently sinking about three hours after enemy was sighted. Survivors names follow in my 2001/12, none seriously injured. Due to heavy gale ensuing considered unlikely that there are more. Board enquiry being held tomorrow. Master of PACIFIC ENTERPRISE and STUREHOLM both full of praise for JERVIS BAY's determined action.
(F.O. 3 B.S., 1942/12, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and W. Indies. (Continued)

Channel Buoys. Your 1844Z/11 re instructing ships to call at the ports they are arriving at to obtain information regarding Channel Buoys, para. 3 all N.C.S.O's and Consular Shipping Adviser's Canada and U.S.A. informed (Chief of N.S. of Canada, 1825/12 to C.in C. W.I.).

Australia.

CANBERRA. Retention in East Indies. (See East Indies).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.11. 1940.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND. Possibly sighted by PACIFIC EXPLORER (S.O.I., Kingston, 0931/12). See America and West Indies.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

FUTRA
SINAIA — Following from Navy Dept. Reported from Dakar French steamers FUTRA and SINAIA left Casablanca for Dakar 7/11. (N.A. Washington, 1245/12).

CARAIBE — Following from R.O., Lumlo. CARAIBE sailed noon/12. (Capt 1/c Simonstown, 1513Z/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.11.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1335. 54 to 55° N. 9 to 13° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435).

1409. 55 to 55.30 N., 9 to 12° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435).

1614. 55 to 56° N., 15 to 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435).

2325. 57.30 to 58.30 N., (8 to 22° W., position indefinite D.S. 435).

1251. 48 to 50° N., 12 to 16° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435)

Routes. It is now doubtful if incoming U boats make Belle Ile. TAKU patrolled from 23/10 to 25/10 line 245° from North Point of Belle Ile during which period at least one U-boat arrived Lorient unsighted. (Capt. S.2, 1025/12, to TRIDENT)

Estimated U/B disposition.

Italian - One entering Gironde.
One may still be in Azores Area.
One in area 55-56° N., 16-18° W. at 1504/11.

German - One in area 57-58° N., 18-20° W.
One in area 58-59° N., 21-23° W.
One or possibly two more in N.W. Approaches east of 20° W. whereabouts unknown.
One about 61° N., 21° W.
One probably N.E. of Muckle Flugga bound for Germany.
(D.D.I.C. 1238/12).

Submarines Attacked.

North Atlantic.

Depth charge attacks were carried out on 8/11 by VIDETTE, WISHART, and WRESTLER in position approx. 252 degrees Cape Trafalgar 11.5 miles. on firm contact in each case. In no case was any visible result obtained. On 9/11 UPRIGHT also obtained contact in position 235 degrees Cape Trafalgar 13 miles. It is considered that contact in each case was a wreck. (F.O.C.N.A. 1602/12).

1. Policy

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Battery of St. Margarets shelled. — Enemy coastal batteries fired 14 rounds between 1430 and 1704 today, which fell near the new heavy gun emplacements near St. Margarets.

NEWCASTLE — NEWCASTLE left Plymouth this afternoon. Operation "White" has been postponed 24 hours to enable her to take part.

Dover Patrols. — Owing to stress of weather, Dover patrols last night were cancelled.

Convoy H.X.84. — 8 ships totalling 47,768 tons are still missing from Convoy H.X.84 (attacked by raider 5/11) only one (BEAVERFORD 10,042 tons) is definitely known to have been sunk. Survivors from some of the other missing ships have been landed in Canada.

S.S. ARDMORE. — Cork Steam Packet ARDMORE due at Fishguard 1500/12 is overdue and cannot be traced.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command. — Last night, the submarine base at Lorient and the harbours of Flushing and Dunkirk were attacked. Single Blenheims attacked docks at Boulogne and Le Havre.

Coastal Command. — The dock area at Zeebrugge was bombed by a Blenheim last night.
A Hudson this morning bombed the Amsterdam Canal. Specially equipped Whitleys escorted Convoy O.B. 242 up to 2400/13 when a similarly equipped Sunderland took over.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE WIND sunk. — S.S. EMPIRE WIND was bombed and hit this morning about 250 miles west of Ireland and is stated to have sunk. The ship was originally in Convoy O.B. 240.

S.S. ANVERS sunk. — S.S. ANVERS (Belgian 4398 tons) was sunk during air attack on Convoy W.N.35 off Hattray Head at 1754 today.

Dover bombed. — Dover was bombed this afternoon. No naval damage occurred.

COLLINGWOOD. — Some casualties were caused and slight damage occurred in camp when COLLINGWOOD was bombed at 1306 today.

/ Mining. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Two Swordfish laid mines off the Mouth of the Ems River and in the Hubert Cat at 2015 and 2035 respectively.

There was a marked increase in mine-laying activity by air, the areas covered including, besides the E. Coast of Scotland, N.E. England, East Anglia, the Thames estuary and probably S.W. England.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place tonight in the Firth of Forth. The approximate positions where the mines fell was noted. The port was closed from West Gate Inchkeith to 2° 52' W. at 2155.

Weather interfered with routine sweeps at Dover today. Two mines were found.

BRITISH PRESTIGE damaged.

A Mine exploded in the Humber this morning close to tanker BRITISH PRESTIGE. The ship was towed to Saltend. 3 Mines were exploded off Spurn Point.

LEON MARTIN sunk.

S.S. LEON MARTIN (British 1951 tons) was mined and sunk off Falmouth today. One mine was out in Fowey Channel. Blyth was closed at 2247, Tyne at 2306 and Tees at 2349.

Mediterranean.

TERROR arrived at Suda Bay this morning for duty as guardship.

ConvoyM.E.3 from Malta, escorted by RAMILLIES, arrived at Alexandria.

Alexandria was twice attacked p.m. today by enemy aircraft, causing slight damage to the shore base. DECOY was hit by a bomb at 1730 and was damaged. Two Blenheims today bombed Valona harbour, destroying a jetty and sinking a barge.
Blenheim aircraft successfully attacked shipping at Benghasi and the barracks at Derna, Bardia, and Sidi Barrani, and co-operated with APHIS in a bombardment of Maktila, east of Sidi Barrani.

/ Wellingtons ....

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Wellingtons last night successfully attacked Bari, causing much damage and setting fire to the oil refinery.

Wellington aircraft last night successfully attacked ~~Bari~~, Durazzo and Valona.

Bad weather prevented a further attack by the F.A.A. on Italian warships in Taranto last night.

East Indies.

PROTECTOR has reported her position and is proceeding to Bombay. SHROPSHIRE is proceeding to Aden and SLAVOL to Colombo. (See 10/11, 11/11).

America and West Indies.

S.S. ANGLO SAXON (5596 tons) which was reported overdue at Bahia Blanca 26/9 is now reported to have been shelled without warning and sunk on 21/8 in 26° 10' N. 34° 9' W. (in mid Atlantic). One boat got away with 7 of the crew, and the 2 survivors are said to have drifted ashore on 30/10 at Eleuthera in the Bahamas.

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/13. (D.C. 1202/13) At 2300/13 (D.C. 2333/13)

Campbeltown Defences } (R.A.N.A.S. 1532/13 to Adty.)

Plymouth A/A Defences. } My 0056/8 and my 0102/2 reporting mines dropped in the Hamoaze. There is evidence that isolated enemy Aircraft, probably flown by some very daring pilots, fly down the Lyne or Tamar River and then drop mines in the Hamoaze at night.
2. To Counter this menace, and after discussion with the Balloon Barrage Commander, very early approval is requested to instal as an immediate temporary measure 3 V.L.A'S in the following position.

1 In Centurion
1 In Oiler at No. 9A Buoy
1 On Shore at Bull Point
3. Some balloons are available at No. 13 Centre at present held as spares for the Tor Point Ferry V.L.A'S and it is understood that winches are available from Naval sources. These can be installed using local resources.
(C.in C. W.A. 1704/13 to Adty.)

Greenock Area. A/C Decoy. Your 1923/8. Request ~~a~~th Air Ministry may be prepared to discuss also following possible alternative position for Glasgow. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1840/13 to Adty.)

Movements.

FOLKESTONE Expect arrive 53° 48' N. 5° 8' W. at 1300/13.
(FOLKESTONE 1915/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
(C. in C. W.A. 0063/13).

More. Dispositions for Night 13/14. (C.in C. More 0800/13).

REVENGE. (To cover O.B. 239, 240, 241). Your 1145/11, para. 2. In view of delay in sailing REVENGE, intend to detach Destroyers 24 hours later. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1042/13 to C.in C. W.A.).
Sailed REVENGE, OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT, GARLAND routed as by C.in C. W.A. 1145/11 to R/V with HIGHLANDER and LEOPOLDVILLE as by F.O. Liverpool 1937/12. (F.O. Greenock 1115/13 to C.in C. W.A.)

VAILLANT } VIKINGS } Your 1747/12. Both Ships ready to sail probably 21/11. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1108/13 to Adty.)

LONDONDERRY. My 0750. ETA. at 20 C. Buoy 1230/13
(LONDONDERRY 1119/13 to C.in C. Rosyth)

/ SOUTHDOWN .....

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

SOUTHDOWN — Adty. 2155/24/10. Intend sail for Scapa 1700/13, calling Holyhead 1800/14 to disembark passengers. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1133/13 to C.in C. H.F.)

Dover. — Patrols for Night 13/14. (V.A. Dover 1212/13).

AUSTRALIA — To leave Convoy at 2000/13 and proceed to Clyde. (A.C.N.S. H. 1232/13 to AUSTRALIA)

PEONY. — My 1334/4 and your 1837/12. Delay in departure of L.L. Corvettes must be accepted. They should be sailed for Gibraltar on 16/11. (A.C.N.S. H. 1233/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Western Channel. — Night Report (C.in C. W.A. 1531/13).

Orkneys. — Positions at 2000/13. (A.C.O.S. 1540/13).

Rosyth. — Movements for Night 13/14. (C.in C. Rosyth 1614/13).

Escort for W.S. 4B. — Owing to delay in sailing REVENGE and LEOPOLDVILLE, their Destroyer Escort may not be available to escort W.S.4B on 17/11. Propose sailing 4 Destroyers of 5th D.F. to Liverpool on 15/11 to take their place. (C.in C. W.A. 2037/13 to Adty.)

SALADIN CLARKIA — SARDONYX 1230/13. Intended to sail SALADIN and CLARKIA in lieu of SARDONYX and MALCOLM at 2100 to-day for 054° 00' North 018° 00' West. Speed of advance 13 knots.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1750/13 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Jan Mayen Island. — COSSACK leaves Scapa 0130/13 to comply with Admiralty 2117/12. COSSACK remains Jan Mayen Island to limit of endurance assuming oil available Faroes. Request details of vessel quoted in Admiralty 1735/5 may be passed to COSSACK. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0039/13 to Adty.) Decypher Admiralty's 2117/12. NAIAD is to proceed to Jan Mayen Island and carry out operation using Trawlers as necessary. REPULSE is to move north eastward to 066° North to cover NAIAD. Flag Officer Iceland inform Trawlers. After operation NAIAD take up Denmark Straits patrol and REPULSE resume Faeroes Iceland patrol. (C.in C. H.F. 1013/13 to C.S.15).

/ My 1013. .....

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued)

My 1013. Please recall COSSACK.
(C.in C. H.F. 1211/13 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0039/13.

Latest information suggest that vessel is a small Norwegian Sealer BUSKO of 160 tons made of wood 105 ft. long with a raised poop including bridge and funnel.
One Mast forward, and ship has a rounded appearance.

British Trawlers you may expect to meet are ELM and WISTARIA.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1324/13 to C.S.15 and COSSACK).

Dover shelled. — Between 1430 and 1704, Enemy Coastal Batteries fired about 14 rounds which fell near the new Heavy Gun Emplacements near St. Margarets. (V.A. Dover 1919/13 to Adty.)

Special Service Brigade. — To shorten Rail transport, Troops will now embark in ST. HELIER, MALINES, ANTWERP as follows. Troops will be on board about 10 days. (D.O.D. H. 1327/13 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

EURICUS, DIDO, CAIRO, SOUTHAMPTON — C.in C. W.A. 1217/10. Cancel paras. A. to C. and substitute following two positions. R/V with SOUTHAMPTON and CAIRO from Belfast in 270° Chicken Rock 8 miles at 1700/15. Route thence. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1738/13 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)
Request Fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1838/13 to C.in C. W.A.)
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2008/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER. — Your 1234/12 Ref. A.M.1151/12 Master of CETUS (Nor.) ex H.X. 84 reports:-
Position in convoy pendants 32
Position at time of attack 52° 33' N. 32° 00' W. At 1715 zone time weather fine and clear.
Enemy first seen 6 - 8 miles on port beam steering in opposite direction appeared to be a pocket battleship. Grey paint. Tower mast. Funnels similar to British cruiser completing at North Shields last month.
JERVIS BAY ordered emergency turn away but turned towards the enemy herself.
Enemy turned towards convoy and JERVIS BAY continued until hit on bridge and poop.
Convoy dropped smoke floats and CETUS turned westerly and then north east.

/ At 2315 .....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

At 2315 enemy fired star shell towards the north but these exploded astern of CETUS.
During previous forenoon CETUS thinks JERVIS BAY sent one of convoy with red band on funnel to the North eastward and that she returned. Also thinks another ship from the convoy went to north eastward soon after this and did not return thinks only one ship made the attack. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1645/13 to F.O. Greenock).

Your 1151/12. Sergeant J. Bowie R.M. gunlayer in S.S. SOVAC of convoy H.X.84 reports that he observed enemy ship attacking and is positive that she had 2 funnels. Larger forward and close to bridge and foremast and the smaller some distance and thinner and shorter, he is also quite sure that attacking vessel was of considerable size and gave the impression of a battleship. He was unable to ascertain other details but on inspection of silhouettes is very strongly of opinion that she was a vessel of Courbet French Battleship class. Sergeant Bowie gives the impression of being a responsible individual whose evidence should be reliable.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1831/13 to Adty.)

Iceland. Your 1209/7. Regret that Iceland D/F cannot be re-opened until Spring as ice and snow make operating impossible. Owing to high latitude, D/F bearings have been of no value. (V.C.N.S.2101/13 to C.in C. H.F.).

Patrol G. Cancel Patrol tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1301/13).

Submarines.

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/14. (V.A.S. 1704/13).

British Air Activity.

R/C of Norwegian Coast. Your 2013/12. Request an early Air R/C of Norwegian Coast to ascertain what Enemy Units are near Trondheim. (C.in C. H.F. 1926/13 to Adty.)

Bombing of Coastal Batteries. My 1026/10. Request bombing may take place from 0445 to 0515/14. (C.in C. Nore 1139/13 to Adty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE WIND. (British, 4900 tons) Bombed in 53° 48' N. 15° 55' W. (Lands End Radio 0852/13) Position 53° 48' N. 15° 52' W. (Valentia Radio 0910/13) Sinking (Valentia Radio 1001/13) Detach one Ship to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1020/13 to ARROW) Proceed to assist with all despatch. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1049/13 to Tug MARAUDER) Sailed MARAUDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1145/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

ANVERS. (Belgian 4398 tons) Convoy W.N.35 attacked in 57° 43' N. 1° 49' W. One Ship sunk (CURACOA 1031/13 to C.in C. Rosyth) N.O.I.C. Peterhead reports ANVERS sunk by A/C 4 to 5 miles N.E. of Hattray Head at 1754/13. Survivors believed whole crew picked up by other Ships of Convoy (C.in C. Rosyth 0147/14 to Adty.)

Dover. At about 1400/13, A/C dropped 3 Bombs in Town. One did not explode. 6 civilians killed and some injured. (V.A. Dover 1919/13 to Adty.)

Mining.

Dover. No routine sweeps to noon/13 owing to weather. QZX 22° swept to westward of channel in bad weather by 4 Dropesa trawlers. 2 mines and 2 cutters found positions doubtful, no area cleared. (V.A. Dover 1248/13)

ARISTOCRAT. Admiralty 1858/12. Request ARISTOCRAT be sailed Sheerness for anti-minelaying duties in Thames Estuary as requested in my 2152/5. (C.in C. Nore, 1410/13 to Admiralty).

M.D. Ships precautions. Reference C.A.F.O. 1819/40. As M.D. ships are fitted with heavy diesel generators they may be in particular danger from accoustic mines when operating 'LL'.
Ships should remain at their fitting out ports until further orders and their forepeaks should be examined with a view to eventual fitting of accoustic sweeps. (D.M.S. 1613/13 to C.in C. Nore).

/ LEON MARTIN .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

LEON MARTIN (British, 1951 tons).

Mined and sunk, 202° at St. Anthony light 5.2 cables. Apparently 2 accoustic mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1641/13 to Admiralty).

Humber.

At 1150 L.L. Trawlers two mines exploded 138 degrees Spurn Point Lighthouse two miles. First mine rod exploded midway between the sweeps second mine exploded ten seconds later. At 1436 LL Trawlers exploded a rod mine 130 degrees Spurn Point Lighthouse miles.
ICARUS about one mile distant. Explosion different to usual. White or grey smoke lying on water with a peak of water about 200 feet at one end of smoke.
(F.O. Humber 1825/13 to Admiralty).
Mine exploded at 0944/13 30 ft. one point abaft beam of Tanker BRITISH PRESTIGE, 7106 tons which had just passed Humber Gate inwards. (F.O. Humber, 1925/13 to Admiralty)

Plymouth.

Cancel my 1850/7. Port is open between 0930 and sunset. Ships should arrive at 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0930 or 1630. Wreck of KINGSTON ALALITE lies in approximate position 242° Breakwater Fort 5.7 cables. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/13).

Falmouth.

Out 1 mine in Fowey Channel 50° 7' 34" N., 4° 52' 18" W. Mine sunk by rifle fire. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2103/13 to Admiralty).

Rosyth.

Port is closed from West Gate Inchkeith to 02° 52' W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2158/13).

Blyth.

Port is closed, A/C minelaying. Expect re-open 1400/14. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2247/13).

Tyne.

Port is closed, suspected minelaying. Expect re-open 1100/4. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2306/13).

Tees.

Port is closed, suspected minelaying. Vessels for Tees may enter Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2349/13).

ARISTOCRAT.

Now that MONAS ISLE has arrived at Methil, ARISTOCRAFT to be sailed for Humber for Anti-Minelaying duties (C.in C. Rosyth 1546/13 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ARDMORE. (Cork Steam Packet) Due Fishguard 1500/12. Overdue and cannot be traced. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1245/13 to Adty.)

CANTICK HEAD. Still ashore in Inganess Bay. Master refused assistance of 2 Tugs. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1245/13 to Adty.)
Attempt to re-float today failed. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 2100/14 to Adty.)

CAPE ST. ANDREW. (See Casualties 11/11) My 1806. Ship reported in 55° 17' N. 11° 19' W. at 1030 today and drifting south at 1 knot. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1256/13 to SUPERMAN, SALVONIA).

Convoy H.X.84.
KOSCIUSZKO (Polish, 3376 tons) Not yet arrived (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1817/13 to Adty.)

BEAVERFORD (British, 10,042 tons). Sunk by Raider 5/11. (D.S. 435).

TREWELLARD. (British, 5201 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).

FRESNO CITY. (British, 1935 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).

KENMARE HEAD. (British, 5225 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).

MAIDAN. (British, 7908 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).

SAN DEMETRIO. (British Tanker, 8073 tons) Proceed forthwith to assist in 53° 46' N. 0° W. at 2030 today. Sheltering at Clare Island, Clew Bay, and should if possible be towed to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145/13 to Tug SUPERMAN)
Reported anchored 7 miles South of Achill Head at 1745/13. (C.in C. W.A. 2250/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Following received from ARROW begins:
Am standing by damaged SAN DEMETRIO under Achill Head. She will be seaworthy by 1300/14 and I will escort her to Clyde. SUPERMAN with me. SAN DEMETRIO has only 15 of her complement left. Have sent Steam and Repair parties T.O.O. 1221 14th Ends. Join her.
(C.in C. W.A. 1715/14 to HELIOTROPE).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

F.N.32. Ships from Tyne area 1½ hours late and overtaking you. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1229/13 to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN).

W.N.36. 0000 Cape Wrath 5 miles at 0850. GLEANER in company. (A.C.O.S. 1115/13).

W.N.37. Sailed W.N.37(0) 0815/13, escort FOXTROT. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1129/13) (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 0938/13).

S.L.53. Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to ARROW, CROCUS, HEARTSEASE, etc. 1317/13).

O.B.246. Admty. 1827/9. Revised date of sailing. (D.T.D., 2227/13)

W.N. 35. Am in company with 4 ships of W.N.35 and WOLVES off Dunnet Head. Air escort reports main body 23 miles astern. My D.G. out of action. (GLEANER, 1546/13, to C.in C. Rosyth).

O.B. 240. Route to avoid S.L. 53. (C.in C. W.A. to ARROW, etc., 1243/13).

O.B. 244. Route. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1127/13).

O.B. 243. Sailed. Escort ACTIVE. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1202/13).

S.L.55. Route. (D.T.D. to MORETON BAY, 1600/13) (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1837/13 amended 1744/14).

H.X.82. 30 hours late at R.V. Convoy hove to in gale in 52° W. EMPIRE BISON unmanageable in heavy sea straggled and was torpedoed and sunk at 0415/1. RUTLAND straggled only ship not reported. (D.T.D. 1835/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.83. 7 hours late at R.V. S.W. gale for 40 hours. SCOTTISH MAIDEN torpedoed and sunk in convoy at 0230/5. Cdre. reports many ships showed bright stern lights. (D.T.D., 1836/13).

H.X.90. Route. (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C. Halifax etc., 1842/13)

S.C.12. Draft sailing telegram. Escort LEITH. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1628/13).

Unescorted Sailings. My 1107/11 and 1531/11 (intended sailings). Intend sailing at 1800/13. E.T.A. QZS 180, 0900/14, escorted by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1043/13) Cancel my 1043/13. Sailed at 1801/13 (list) (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1821/13) (C.in C. W.A. 1836/13).

/ H.X. 84. ....

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.
Shipping.

Convoys (contd.)

H.X.84. (raider attack 5/11).

Admty. 1151/12. Captains of BRIARWOOD, CASTILLIAN, HODONA and possibly others not yet interviewed are being sent to London 14/11. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1140/13 to Admty.) Continue to report all information of survivors from H.X.84 which bears on identity of raider, tactics employed, and the position in which survivors were rescued. (D.O.D.(H) to R.A.3 and N.O.I.C's, 1934/13).
At 1200/13, 26 ships of convoy H.X.84 had reached port in safety (D.S. 435) Ships missing, see Casualties.

Admty. 1151/12. Report from Master of CETUS, Norwegian, ex-H.X.84. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1645/13). Polish MORSKAWOLA not yet arrived from H.X.84 (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1817/13)

E.N., W.N., Routes.

C.in C. W.A. 2029/7/11. Propose the following instructions for routing E.N. and W.N. (1) E.N. to arrive off Rattray Head between 1200 and 1400 thence to proceed into Moray Firth on a course Approx. 273 degrees altering to Northward not earlier than one hour after sunset in order to make the tide in Pentland Firth during the following day. (2) W.N. to make the passage of Pentland Firth in the last of daylight whenever the tide permits. (3) Cancel my 1203/10/11. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2357/13).
Concur in Your 2357/13. Re para. (2) it is important that W.N. Convoys make the passage of Pentland Firth before it is necessary to ask for shore lights.
(A.C.O.S. 1226/14, to C.in C. Rosyth).

Troop Convoys.
LEOPOLDVILLE.

My 1937/12. LEOPOLDVILLE and HIGHLANDER sailed and will be half an hour late at R.V. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/13 to Admty. etc.) Your 1145/11, para. 2. In view of delay in sailing, REVENGE intends to detach destroyers 24 hours later. (F.O. Greenock, 1042/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

W.S.4B.
EDINBURGH

My 1343/1. Following is new position (D.S.T. no T.O.O./13 to F.O.I.C's, Liverpool, Greenock, Glasgow). Latest position (D.S.T., 2138/13 to F.O.I.C's, as above).
Admty. 2114/11 and 2121/11. EDINBURGH firings. Do not consider she is efficient for the duty laid on her. Suggest AUSTRALIA be used, and if the sailing of this convoy on 17/11 is not vitally important that it should be escorted by RODNEY as well.
(C.in C. H.F. 2325/13 to Admty.)

Navicerts, Vichy French Ports.

On 18/11, compulsory for ships sailing from or to Madagascar and Reunion to have ship navicerts. Instructions. (D.E.W.D., 2047/13).

/ Ditto .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Navicerts, Vichy French Ports. Ditto for French W. Africa, Liberia and Portuguese Guinea. (D.E.W.D., 2059/13 Syria included in Navicert area on 18/11. Instructions. Above does not apply to French ships which are to be sent in unless sailing under special arrangements. (D.E.W.D., 2100/13).

Operations Against Vichy French.

CANADA. Intend sailing French Hospital ship CANADA for Gibraltar 1200/14 routed in accordance with Admiralty's 1913/28/10. Speed 11 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1230/13 to Admiralty).

Dakar, French S/M's. Following has been received. Begins. C.S.l. repeated Admiralty C.in C. S.A. from Liaison Officer French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA letter dated 19/10 from Admiral Landriau referring to possible second attack on Dakar states that only S/M's equipped are the French S/M BEVEZIERS and 4 small S/M's in bad repair. Ends. (C.S.l., 1634/13 to Admiralty).

INDOCHINOIS, requisitioning A.M.1104/29/10 paras. (c) and (d) INDO-CHINOIS urgently required in U.K. as a transport. Ministry of Shipping making arrangements through local agents to sail her as soon as possible. Master and Crew should be given opportunity of serving in the ship under conditions laid down in Tel. No. 636 to Governor, Sierra Leone. Any deficiency should be made up, if possible, out of volunteers from French sailors ex CUBA or even British naval ratings. Report urgently if crew cannot be provided. Presume you will consider possibility of an attempt by French to recover the ship and route her accordingly. Provision of escort and armed guard is at your discretion. Your 1706/6 and 2025/11. Possibility of diverting a neutral ship to Freetown is being explored. (Head of M.1039/13 to C.in C. S.A.).

Shipping Dakar. My 2237/11 and 1635/13 following from Governor Gold Coast Warship A 56 or A 66 left Lome A.M. 13 for Kotonu. Movements believed to be as follows:- arrives Kotonu 13 pick up S.S. F.DREY. Returns home and leaves there 14 or 15 with S.S. CARIMARY and S.S. EDREY. Destination believed France via Dakar Casablanca. Also S.S. LOUIS L.D. if Lome in and day to load produce for France. (C.in C. S.A. 2315/13 to 1 C.S.)

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Corvettes. Your 1334/4. Request confirmation that all four corvettes are fitted with A/S and any information on their ability to maintain speed in adverse weather. (S.O. Force H, 1435/13 to Admiralty).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Your 0646/12 and A.T. 1525/12. Intended ROYAL SOVEREIGN should proceed to Halifax for convoy escort duties if results of examination referred to in 1525/12 are satisfactory. (D.O.D. (F), 1636/13 to S.O. Force H).

Patrols. Air Patrols (200 Group, 1715/13 to Air Ministry).

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL. Intend to steer 120° from position 10.41 N., 18.00 W., passing inshore of MORETON BAY. (CORNWALL, 0830 M/13, to C.in C. S.A.).

Duala. Extract of message from British Vice Consul Fernando Po 4/11 delayed in transit. Begins. Reported on good authority Madrid has requested local authorities to cease all contact with Duala on ground that Spain does not recognise Free French Government. Ends. He also states more armaments arrived Fernando Po 23/10, details not known. (N.S.O.(I) Freetown 1411/13 to Admiralty).

Air Reconnaissance. C.O.C. West Africa reports Air Pilot at 0730/13 sighted vessel believed Cruiser apparently at anchor 2 or 3 miles S. of Kutonu Pier. ? British vessel believed sloop approaching Kutonu from S.W. May be vessels mentioned in my 2237/11 but no direct indication. (C.in C. S.A. 1635 M/13 to F.O.C. 1st Cruiser Squadron)

NEPTUNE
DEVONSHIRE. Admiralty's 2334/12 and my 1145/11. My flag will be transferred to NEPTUNE p.m./15 DEVONSHIRE ready for sea a.m./16. Intend sail for patrol in NEPTUNE to relieve DELHI p.m./16. DELHI return to Lagos, as NEPTUNE cannot oil at Lagos until DEVONSHIRE sails can early information of latter's movements be given. (F.O.C. 1st Cruiser Squadron 1801 M/13 to Admiralty).

SOIKA
SARNA
SOTRA
SVANA SOIKA SARNA SOTRA SVANA sail Freetown 14/11 for St. Helena to fuel thence to Walvis Bay and Simonstown. E.T.A. Walvis Bay LARISTAN accompanying as far as St. Helena and then returns to Freetown. Following required at Simonstown. (C.in C. S.A., 2025 M/13 amended 0925/14).

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Taranto Attack night of 11-12/11.

Should like to issue communique about most successful attack on Italian Fleet at Taranto, but will not do so until you give all clear for fear of compromising your further operations. Is there any objection to mentioning that torpedo aircraft were used? (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 0036/13).
Your 2345/12. Were 2 or 3 battleships sunk. Prime Minister making statement at noon today. (1 S.L. to V.A. Malta, 1038/13). Your 1037. From incomplete photographic survey - one LITTORIO class battleship badly damaged but not sunk, one CAVOUR class battleship beached to avoid sinking and now half under water, one second CAVOUR class battleship apparently damaged and believed beached (V.A. Malta, 1125/13 to Admty.)
Your 2051/12 and 2345/12.
Impossible to get a clear picture of the situation from these signals.
If there were 6 battleships present as stated in your 1539/12 call them LITTORIO A and B and CAVOUR C, D, E and F and state if known -
(1) Exactly where they were originally berthed, giving bearings and distances.
(2) Where they now are giving bearings and distances.
(3) Condition of damaged ships.
Is it certain that the list on various ships actually exists or may it be due to effect of oblique photographs.
(1 S.L. 1213/13 to V.A. Malta).

Taranto Attack (continued)

Your 1213/13. My signals were primarily intended for C.in C. Med. and V.A. (A) for operational purposes. They were urgent and were therefore condensed but they should have enabled these authorities to visualise the situation observing both had enlarged photographs of Taranto Harbour showing normal berths and had been kept fully informed of all reconnaissance.
(11) Your 1037/13. No mention was made in my 2345/12 of any ship being sunk. The signal said that stern only was visible on photograph and by measuring length of the ship and plotting it on a chart from position of the photographed stern it places the bows which were off the photograph in four fathoms of water and it was therefore assumed that the ship had been beached, i.e. run ashore.

/ (111) .....

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Taranto Attack (continued)

(iii) Your 1213/13. Condition of the ships were as fully reported as possible. A further reconnaissance will be made when weather is suitable and aircraft are available. The actual damage is naturally not known as it appears to be all under water and cannot be seen from vertical photographs.
The forecastle of the damaged Italian Battleship LITTORIO Class may not be down but ship appears definitely well down by head and large auxiliaries were on both sides of the bow plus numerous smallcraft.
(iv) The list of the Littorio Class battleships and of one cruiser may be due to oblique photography. The two cruisers and damaged battleships are surrounded by heavy oil patches which is not the case with any other ships in harbour. The definitely listed cruiser had a tug on stern apparently towing her towards dockyard.
(v) Positions of Battleships the day before the attack. (Details).
(vi) Positions on 12/11. (Details).
Ships B, C and F are the damaged ones. F is Cavour class ship half under water. Positions in case of B, C and F photographs of sterns the position of B is approximate only as it was photographed through a gap in clud and no land shows. The photographic aircraft had difficult conditions and was attacked by enemy fighters and taking of photographs was a very creditable piece of work.
(V.A. Malta 2035/13 to Admty.)

Credit to F.A.A.

Admty. 0036/13. Part one of my 1121/13. Consider that full credit to the F.A.A. and such publicity as be desirable should be given to this very gallant exploit and it is hoped that it will not be forgotten that this pronounced success is largely due to the inspiring leadership of R.A. Lyster and the commanding officers of EAGLE and ILLUSTRIOUS. No objection to mentioning torpedo aircraft. V.A. Malta reports that examination of photographs taken A.M./12 appear to show one CAVOUR Class beached with Y turret under water and a heavy list to starboard. One Italian Battleship LITTORIO down by bows with forecastle awash and heavy list to starboard. Another CAVOUR may be beached close to entrance to Mar Piccolo. Two cruisers and other light craft and auxiliaries also damaged in inner harbour.
Unfortunately weather prevented the repetition of the operation night 12/13th. Suggested communique follows as part two. (C.in C. Med., 0951/13).

/Press Communique ...

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Press Communique. Proposed communique: (begins)
During course of extended operation by Eastern Mediterranean Fleet in Central Mediterranean and Ionian Sea, F.A.A. aircraft of EAGLE and ILLUSTRIOUS attacked Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour on night 11-12/11.
The attack was carried out by moonlight in face of strong A.A. defence which included an elaborate system of balloon balloon barrage. Notwithstanding these hazards and difficulties hits with torpedoes were scored on two enemy battleships and probable a third anchored in outer harbour, while damage was inflicted by bomb on smaller warship and auxiliary in inner harbour. Two of our aircraft failed to return.
Subsequent reconnaissance has shown one battleship of Littorio Class and one of Cavour Class to be heavily damaged and another of the latter class may also have been hit.
Timely and accurate reconnaissance carried out by aircraft of R.A.F. greatly contributed to the success of this operation.
Concurrently with air attack on Taranto a raid into Straits of Otranto was carried out by a force of cruisers and destroyers under the command of V.A.L.F. This force when west of Valona encountered a convoy of four Italian store ships escorted by two destroyers. One ship was sunk at once, two were set heavily on fire and were almost certainly destroyed while fourth was damaged but managed to escape. Disabled escorting destroyer fled at once under cover of smoke screen but one was damaged by gunfire. There was no damage or casualty to our ships. (Ends).
Further information for communique dealing with enemy air activity (corrupt group) briefly follows on arrival of bombers.
(C.in C. Med., 1121/13).

Air Report. Night 11/12 November. Swordfish 813 and 824 Squadrons F.A.A. despatched to attack ships at Marakeb Island reported by 113 Squadron were unable to locate target and returned to base. 12/11.
2 Hurricanes 33 Squadron despatched to attack concentration of 26 enemy aircraft at Sidi Barrani reported by 113 Squadron previous day, found aircraft had departed and attacked enemy camp damaging M.T. and tents. Night 12/13 1900 and 2020 hours. Enemy aircraft dropped 17 bombs on Alexandria. 2 warehouses at Ras el Tin slightly damaged. No casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1211/13).

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid ...

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATION.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Air raid (a) 1730 to 1750. 2 planes at dusk 8 bombs 27 killed 10 were children 22 injured all Egyptians. Raid (b)1900 to 2040 about 3 planes and about 10 bombs five Egyptians killed. Slight damage to two transit sheds.
(R.A.1/c Alexandria 2230/13).

Valona Attacks, 10/11, 12/11, Durazzo Attack, 12/11.

Greece. 10/11. 1230 hours. 3 Blenheims 84 Squadron bombed Valona hitting buildings round old aerodrome and starting fires among petrol dumps and at naval base. Night 11/12 November 4 Wellingtons 70 Squadron operating from Tatoi bombed Durazzo completely burning out fuel depot and starting 3 fires on jetty which later merged into 1 large blaze. Fire from fuel depot still visible two hours later to aircraft at distance of 100 miles. On outward journey Wellingtons sighted 2 ships in flames 15 miles out to sea off Valona. Understood that ships were set on fire by our naval forces operating in that area but confirmation of this is awaited.
2 Wellingtons 70 Squadron also attacked Valona exploding ammunition dump in docks.
1 Wellington landed at Eleusis on return journey owing to broken petrol pipes.
Day 12/11. 1 Blenheim 84 Squadron photographed Durazzo and road to Tirana for distance 4 miles. 1 cruiser 10,000 tons and 12 merchant ships in harbour.
3 Blenheims bombed Durazzo, bombs bursting on quayside among cranes and warehouses. Other bombs fell on petrol dumps and power station south west of town, starting fire with column of dense smoke. Accurate A.A. barrages encountered over town and Tirana Road. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1211/13).

Air Recco.

R.A.F. Reconnaissance night 12-13 sighted no ships at Valona, one passenger ship six miles S.W. of Durazzo which was attacked.
24 large ships sighted at Bari thought to be escort ships may be cruisers.
(N.A. Athens 1331/13 to C.in C. Med.)

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 13/11 All times G.M.T.

Air Report, Malta.

1437 to 2004 moonlight patrol Gulf of Taranto by Sunderland 230 Squadron to report enemy naval units leaving harbour. Patrol requested by C. in C. Med. in connection with operations Italian Fleet Taranto. Reported fires seen Taranto in distance - otherwise nil. Reconnaissance Ionian Sea carried out 0525 to 1532.

Reconnaissance .....

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Air Report, Malta. (Contd.)

Reconnaissance required by S.O. Force H. Elmas Aerodrome. Alghero Elmas seaplane base. Island of Caprera.

S/M's Caprera

Sighted six submarines and 1 destroyer in creek, south east of Island at 41° 11' N. 09° 26' E. No enemy air activity over Malta today. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1910/13).

Crete, Greek Troop Convoy.

Embarkation of troops from Crete will commence a.m. 17/11, 7 ships from Candia and 5 from Suda Bay, destination Salonica, time of sailing not later than 1700. Escort may be given by 6 and 4 destroyers respectively. 2 Sections of Convoy joins a.m./18. Requesting air protection, and asking if A/A cruiser could escort. (M.A. Athens to C.in C. Med., 1569/13).

Greek Situation.

Report for D.D.M.I. (M.A. Athens to W.O., 1645/13).

DECOY

Damaged in air raid Alexandria 1730/13 (see 15/11)

Middle East Appreciation

Chiefs of Staff No.26 to C.in C's, Med. and M.E. Summary of appreciation of possibility of enemy advance through Balkans and Syria to Middle East. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med. and E.I., 1684/13) See Med. Vol.

Landing Operations.

Summary of present proposals for supply of material and personnel. (a) Carriers, (b) Craft, (c) Personnel, (d) Accommodation. (Hd. of M., to C.in C. Med., 1936/13). See Med. Vol.

Syria, Navicerts.

Syria will be included in Navicert area on 18/11 after which it will be compulsory for all ships sailing from or to Syria to have ship navicerts. Above does not apply to French ships which are to be sent in unless sailing under special arrangements. (D.E.W.D. to C.in C. Med., etc. 2100/13).

M.M.B.O.O.

Your 1941/9. If the M.N.B.O.O. can be spared from U.K. it can be usefully employed in the Mediterranean. (C.in C. Med., to Admty. 1055/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Navicerts, Madagascar. On 13/11, compulsory for ships sailing from or to Madagascar and Reunion to have ship navicerts. (D.N.W.D. to C.in C.E.I., 2057/13).

NIEUW HOLLAND. D.S.T. 2232/7, and C.in C. E.I. 0756/8. NIEUW HOLLAND sailed Bombay 11/11. Date of arrival Durban and requirements. (P.S.T.O. Bombay, 0800 Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

CANBERRA
DURBAN
CRICKET
CAPETOWN
WESTRALIA

(i) at sunset 13/11 CANBERRA is to proceed to establish a patrol along latitude 010° 00' South between longitudes 080° East and 085° East. Speed on patrol 12 knots. In absence of further information of raider, at sunset 14/11 CANBERRA is to proceed to Fremantle.
(ii) at sunset 13 DURBAN is to proceed to Nancowry to fuel and escort CRICKET to rendezvous with CAPETOWN.
(iii) CAPETOWN is to sail from Colombo at 1530Z/13 and proceed to rendezvous with DURBAN and CRICKET as arranged by DURBAN.
(iv) WESTRALIA as in my 1028/12 (C.in C. E.I., 1113Z/13).

My 1113/13. Cancel paragraphs two and three and substitute (ii) CAPE TOWN is to sail from Colombo at 1630Z/13 and proceed so as to arrive at Australian port A.M./18. After fuelling from Oiler PEARLEAF she is to escort CRICKET to Colombo. (iii) DURBAN is to proceed so as to arrive Nancowry 16/11 for fuel informing CRICKET and Oiler PEARLEAF of para two above. DURBAN on arrival report to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. China, and CAPETOWN, (a) time DURBAN will be ready to proceed again, (b) whether CRICKET will have steam before CAPETOWN arrives. (C.in C. E.I., 1403Z/13).

WOOLWICH. Your 1434/12. Intend sailing 0900Z/15. (WOOLWICH 1203/13).

OLE JACOBS
AUTOMEDON } My 1644/10 and 0606/12. Further information concerning distress messages made by these ships from 1347/10 G.M.T. Conclusion that OLE JACOBS, Norwegian tanker, is now in enemy hands. (C.in C. E.I., 1322 Z/13 amplified 1444/13).

PROTECTOR
SHROPSHIRE. My 0744/11. Tug PROTECTOR has reported her position in 016° 12' N. 062° 32' E. at 0800 Z/12. She is proceeding Bombay SHROPSHIRE is proceeding Aden and oiler SLAVOL to Colombo. (C.in C. E.I., 1324 Z/13).

/ U.S.S.
B.N.S.S. .....

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

U.S.6.
B.N.8½.

Convoy U.S.6 transhipped completely at Bombay to Convoy B.N.8½ and sailed Nov. 10th.

America and West Indies.

Italian Contraband.

Intercepted letter.
Good for Italy left New York in U.S. ship SEAFOX now named MORNACKPORT on 25/10 due Buenos Aires about 14/11.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1503/13).

ANGLO-SAXON, sunk by raider 21/8.

My 1500/6. Names of 2 survivors of S.S. ANGLO-SAXON (in reply to inquiry by D.T.D.) Following is summary mainly from log kept by Chief Officer Denning. Raider believed to be WESER or WEBER which confirmed by Widdicombe attacked ship in position latitude 026° 10' North longitude 054° 09' West 2020/21/8. Shelled without warning range 1 mile with 4 inch gun then closed 3 cables raking deck with machine guns and pompoms. Ship sunk only 1 boat believed got away with 7 of crew. 5 dead by 9/9 survivors drifted ashore Eleuthera 30/10. Widdicombe states master killed while dumping ships papers although log shows found dead in cabin. Comments. Consider confidential books if not dumped were destroyed as ship soon on fire.
(S.O.I., Kingston 1147/13)
Your 1625/9 and my 2313/12 ANGLO SAXON attacked at 2020 ships time 21/8 in 026° 10' N. 054° 09' W. by ship thought to be of Hamburg America Line similar to WESER. Raider not seen until within 1 mile when firing was opened with 4 inch without warning immediately wrecking guns and poop. W/T office smashed before report could be sent. Raider then closed within 3 cables raking bridge and deck with pom-poms and machine guns using tracers. Engine room hit and boiler burst.
Many of crew killed in attempt to reach boats. 2 big life boats badly damaged. Gig with 7 survivors pulled away unseen whilst raider was firing machine guns at 2 life rafts already launched. Evidently intention was to sink without trace. ANGLO SAXON on fire sank stern first and raider disappeared eastwards. Gig remained hove to all night but no wreckage sighted, eventually reached Bahamas. 5 survivors perished on passage. Diary kept by mate records ANGLO SAXON carried only one breaker half filled and suggests that life boats should carry more breakers and food, particularly tinned fruit. (C.in C. A. W. I. 1152/13.).

/ U.S. Ships. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.11.1940. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

U.S. Ships. C.in C. East Indies' 1844Z/11. Suggest supply of confidential navigational information to U.S. Ships undesirable at present. Should entry of U.S.A. into the war appear probable suggest supply of information to U.S. Ships by N.C.S.Os on all stations as for Allied ships. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1336/13).

Town Destroyers. Expect LANCASTER, MANSFIELD, SHERWOOD, CHESTERFIELD to reach vicinity 052° 40' north 032° 30' west by 0230 Z 15/11 thence being guided by your 1436/12. They have been ordered to proceed Belfast on completion of search in absence of other instructions. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1142/13 to Admiralty).

China.

Shore Defences. Your 0545/11/10. Owing to limited stock of 4.7" and 4" guns available at Indian ports, Colombo and Singapore, no alteration to arrangements in Admty. 1414/7/10 is considered advisable. (D. of L.D. to C.in C. China, 1732/13).

Australia.

U.S.T. STRATHMORE from Sydney for Melbourne for fuel, taken nil, remaining 1860 tons. (A.C.N.B., 0214 Z/13, to D. of S.T.)

New Zealand.

TURAKINA wreckage My 0835Z/20/8. Wreckage worked up West Coast, North Island, New Zealand, little doubt that of TURAKINA (N.Z.N.B., 0229Z/13) (TURAKINA reported attack by raider 20/8).

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TRAPANI)
SPEZIA)

Reported to be used for regular services between Barcelona and Genoa. (D.D.I.G. 1389/13).

NORDERNEY

Captain of Port Para. has stopped German Ship NORDERNEY receiving more than 250 tons coal and considers ship interned. Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff concurred in above but similar action as yet not taken at other ports. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1735/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CAPE ST.ANDREW SUNK.

CAPE ST. ANDREW, British 5094 tons. SSSS position 55° 40' N. 11° 31' W. approx. (Valentia Radio 1931/13) Torpedoed 55° 14' N., 010° 29' W. Am hunting. (HURRICANE, 2030/13 to C.in C. W.A.). Was originally in Convoy O.B.240 became disabled, and was reported to be drifting on 11/11. Sank after being torpedoed, 78 m. W. of Bloody Foreland. 14 of crew missing, the rest having been picked up by tug SALVONIA (D.S. 436).

Submarines Reported.

2060. D.F. Italian U Boat in approximate position between 045° and 047° N., 006° and 007° W. probably homeward bound. (V.A.S. 2117/13 to S/M's on patrol Area B).

2030. 55° 14' N., 10° 29' W. (D.D.I.C. 2206/13 and 2310/13).

1203. 59° N., 19° - 20° W. indefinite position. (D.S. 436).

Estimated U/B dispositions. No reliable reports have been received.
Italian - 1 in Atlantic N. of 55° N., whereabouts unknown.
No news of any others.
German - 1 some 220 miles S.W. of Fastnet at 1251/12 may be bound northwards.
2 in area 54° to 56° N: 10° to 15° W.
1 in area 55° to 56° N; 15° to 20° W.
1 in area 57° to 59° N: 18° to 22° W.
1 in area 60° to 61° N: about 20° W.
1 in northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1206/13).

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Rosyth Area. A/P Trawlers for Patrols.

Admty. 1819/25/10 and 1310/26/10 also C.in C. Rosyth's 1559/27/10. Request arrangements be made to replace by A/P Trawlers M/S vessels and A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter. To maintain patrols the following additional trawlers are required. Hartlepool 6. Invergordon 3. Leith 2. Dundee 2.
(S.O.A.P. Leith 1040/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

23rd D.F.

To be transferred to W.A. Command.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1918/14 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Nore Command Light Vessels.

Your 1704/8. Light Vessels will be withdrawn and replaced by Light Buoys as opportunity offers.
(Hydrographer 1829/14 to C.in C. Nore).

11th M/S Flotilla.

A.M.2302/22/10. Request I may be informed when return of 11th M/S Flotilla to Clyde may be expected.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1128/14 to Adty).

Your 1128/14. 11th M.S.F. is the only mine clearance force on the West Coast. It is Intended they shall remain at Milford Haven until a more seaworthy flotilla is available there; this will not be for some months.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1928/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

French Ships.

Your 1044/12. Approved.
(D.P.S. 2334/14 to F.O.I.C. Southampton).

Defence of United Kingdom.

R.N. Air Station. Defences.

Your 1725/11. (R.N.A.S. Campbeltown 0050/14 to Adty).

DELUGE.

At 1130/14. (D.C.1135/14).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Scapa Defences.

I observe in Appendix A to War Office letter enclosed with A.L.M. 019767/40 of 6/11 the A.A. heavy guns at present authorised for Scapa number 64. Present number is 88 and no reduction can be accepted. See my * 1738/3/9 and 1727/24/9. Request appendix be amended accordingly.
(A.C.O.S. 1235/14 to Adty).

Plymouth A/A Defences.

C.in C. W.A. 1704/13. Request you consider implementing this requirement. Winches are available from Naval sources.
(D. of L.D. 2225/14 to Air Ministry).

Movements.

The Downs.

Eight M.V's, two balloon tugs, one M.L. and DEODAR of C.E.16 are scattered between Ramsgate and Dover proceeding to Southend. M.L.120 is in Dover.
(V.A. Dover 0750/14 to C.in C. Nore).

AUSTRALIA.

My 2121/11, para.2. AUSTRALIA is to be sailed from Clyde as additional Escort for W.S. 4B. (V.C.N.S. 1103/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

ADASTRAL.

My 1821/13. Returned to Dartmouth.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1107/14 to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven).

CLEVELAND, KINGSTON OLIVINE.

Report your position. (C.in C. Nore 1113/14 to CLEVELAND).

EDINBURGH.

C.in C. H.F. 2351/13. Expected time of arrival 1300/15. passing into W.A. Area at 0030/15. (EDINBURGH 1139/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

Escort for WS.4B.

Your 2037/13. Approved. (V.C.N.S. 1152/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Nore Command.	Movements to 1200/15. (C.in C. Nore 1200/14 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
GARDENIA.	My noon position 55° 13'N., 10° 40'W. Sinking ship not sighted. (GARDENIA 1202/14 to C.in C. W.A.)
FOWEY.	Sail at 1530/15 and anchor off Methil. Proceed as additional A/A Escort with EN.26 sailing 0800/16 and transfer to WN.39 due Cape Wrath 0130/17 and escort to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth 1214/14 to FOWEY).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. (A.C.O.S.1542/14).
Dover.	Patrols for Night 14/15. (V.A. Dover 1544/14).
VELOX.	My 1217/10 and 1643/11. Request you detach VELOX from 51° N., 20° W., through 36° 30'N., 10° W. to Gibraltar. Route of VELOX to be modified if fuel necessitates. (C.in C. W.A. 1615/14 to C.S.18).
Nore and Harwich.	Movements Summary. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1730/14 to WIDGEON).
KENYA.	Your 1335/14. KENYA is waiting at Belfast until Plymouth considered safe for her entry as ordered in my 2257/8. (C.in C. W.A. 2021/14 to C.in C. H.F.)
5th D.F.	PRU report shows three and possibly more destroyers in Brest today. Despatch of four of 5th D.F. as approved in your 1152/14 would leave only one or two serviceable destroyers in Plymouth till November 22nd. Request therefore that BATH, ST. ALBANS, ST MARYS may be made available for escort of Convoy W.S.4B. on November 17th in lieu of 5th D.F. (C.in C. W.A. 2049/14 to Adty).
NIGERIA.	Expect ready for service p.m./20. (C.in C. W.A. 2212/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

FURIOUS
SOUTHAMPTON
Operation
"Collar".

C.in C. W.A. 1217/10 and N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1738/13. SOUTHAMPTON cannot be sailed in time to R/V in 54° 45'N., (?) 5° 12'W. at 1940/15. Intend sail CAIRO to R/V in 270 Chicken Rock 8 miles at 1700/15. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/14 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Request you sail SOUTHAMPTON to R/V in position H in C.in C. W.A. 1217/10. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2000/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

Dover
Shelled.

Between 1622 and 1653 Enemy Coastal Batteries fired about ten rounds which fell near R.M. Siege Battery. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 1946/14 to Adty).

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

My 1942/12. Evidence of Board of Enquiry conforms that enemy had one triple turret forward and one aft. Single funnel with cowl similar to RESOLUTION of which class he was first thought to be by many survivors. Foremast with compact bridge structure and some evidence of short mainmast well abaft the funnel. Secondary Armament and Ships.

My 2330/14 part two.
Typical shell hole in JERVIS BAY'S side assessed as 12 inches in diameter.
Enemy sighted steering South altered to West to open A arc and fired triple salvo from single turret fore andaft at high rate of fire presumably giving impression of six - gun salvo referred to in my 1942/12. Very small spread.
Enemy concentrated on JERVIS BAY before molesting convoy and opened fire with time fuze shell high explosives or Shrapnel from secondary armament at the end of action while survivors were abandoning.
(F.O.C.3B.S. 2318/14 to Adty).

Part three final. Complete absence of funnel smoke from enemy was particularly noticed. Survivors rescued in 052° 41' N., 032° 17' W. close to position of sinking. Handling of JERVIS BAY by Captain and conduct of all on board was in accordance with best traditions. Recommendations for immediate awards will follow.
(F.O.C. 3rd. B.S. 2330/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

Greenock Area. — Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock.1337/14).

SEAWOLF. — Expected time of arrival. Position W. 0832/15. (SEAWOLF 0600/14 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/15. (V.A.S 1707/14).

British Air Activity.

R/C of Norwegian Coast. — C.in C. H.F. 1926/13. Request you arrange this if possible. (Adty. 0135/14 to A.C C.in C. CC).

Nore. — Dawn reconnaissance not carried out. (C.in C. Nore 0725/14).

SA.IA. SA.IE. — Security patrols today are being extended to visibility distance of the Norwegian and Danish Coasts. S A 1(A) is being substituted for S.A.1(E) and also to carry out reconnaissance of coast from Trondheim to Stadlandet. Offensive patrol enter Skagerak as far as possible. (C.in C. Rosyth 0920/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

Report of Airman in Sea. — Whenever Airman reported in sea, F.O or N.O.I.C. concerned is to report by signal to Adty. giving following particulars. (A.C.N.S. H. 1315/14 to C's in C.)

Stavanger. Norwegian Coast. — Three aircraft are carrying out a bombing attack on Stavanger aerodromes tonight.

One Sunderland will carry out a moonlight reconnaissance of Norwegian Coast from the Approaches to Trondheim to 61° 30' N the aircraft not to enter Fjords but keep to sea in visibility distance of coast. Aircraft to take off 2359 and land in daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 1732/14 to Adty).

Priority of Inland Photographic reconnaissance. — A566 14/11 during alert No.3 or until further orders when weather conditions are favourable for deep penetration the photography of important objectives inland as indicated from time to time is to take priority over daily reconnaissance of invasion ports. (Air Ministry 1545/14 to C.C.)

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Rosyth.

Air Escort for 15/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1924/14). The following Patrols will become daily routine until further orders. Parallel Track search by 2 Hudsons leaving line Butt of Lewis and 30° Butt of Lewis 30 miles at dawn, for 360 miles on 300°, thence on 80° to 10° W, then to base. (C.in C. Rosyth 2028/14 to C.in C. H.F.).

S.A.1A.
S.A.2.
S.A.3.

Patrol S.A.1 A will be flown instead of S.A.1 E. a.m. tomorrow Friday, taking off at first light and will be extended to Norwegian Coast if cloud cover permits. S.A.2 and S.A.3 also extended to Coast will take off at 1030 tomorrow and will not repeat not be repeated p.m. Two Southern tracks of S.A.2 will be extended to 7 degrees East. Offensive patrol Lister to Horns Reef will be extended into Skaggerak if cover permits and will be flown concurrently with S.A.3.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2242/14 to Adty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
BOSOM.

One aircraft shadowing in 50° 36'N., 0° 20'W. (FERNIE 0907/14 to Culver W/T).

FISHPOOL.

Bombed in 55° 30'N., 16° 10'W. (Valentia Radio). (1027/14). Detail one Destroyer to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1157/14 to WANDERER) Proceed to assist (C.in C. W.A. 1431/14 to GARDENIA).

ST. CATHERINE.

Sunk on way to join N.Bound Convoy E.N.25 at 1800/14 in 4 minutes by aerial torpedo 1/4 mile S.of outer buoy swept channel. Survivors of crew 14 out of 28, Master and 2nd Officer lost,3out of 4 passengers saved. Survivors brought in by BERRIEDALE also joining convoy. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1125/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Convoy.
ARENA.

10 aircraft in 51° 35'N., 1° 10'E. (WOLSEY 1136/14) One aircraft in 51° 30'N 1° 9'E. (VERDUN 1317/14) Enemy disappeared (VERDUN 1320/14).

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy ALPHA.	One aircraft shadowing in 57° 17'N., 0° 15'W. (ICARUS 1733/14).
SHIPMATES) LORD HOWE)	(H.M. Drifters). SHIPMATES sunk and LORD HOWE damaged by aircraft bombing in Dover Harbour at about 1415/14. 1 missing, 6 injured. (LYNX 1845/14 to Adty).
YORKSHIRE LASS (Drifter) M/L. CIRRUS.	Damaged by bombs during attack on Dover at 1420/14. No barrage Balloons flying. Some damage to buildings. (V.A. Dover 1946/14 to Adty).
Dover.	At 1420 today 25 J.U 87's escorted by M.E.109's approached Dover from North East at 11,000 feet and dive bombed the Harbour. 60 Rounds were fired by 'B' Battery of the U.P's in two Salvoes of 30, and 30 Rounds by 'A' Battery. At least six Junkers went right through the U.P. Barrage and several Machines subsequently crashed but it is not possible positively to determine the cause as our Fighters were attacking. (V.A. Dover 1947/14 to Adty).

Mining.

Humber.	Closed (F.O. Humber 0341/14). Open (F.O. Humber 0928/14).
S.N.45.	My 1504/13. Completed(RAML 0921/14).
Thames Estuary.	1 Red mine detonaded by L.L. at 1915/13 in 48° knob L.V. 4 cables. (Capt: M/S. 1009/14 to C.in C. Nore).
Tyne.	1 Ground Magnetic Mine detonated L.L. in 70° North Tyne Pier Light 12½ cables at 1225/14. (PMSO South Shields 1308/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Great Bromley, Essex.	2 mines dropped last night by parachute. One did not explode. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1315/14 to Adty).
Channel.	At 1145, 5 M/V's stationary halfway between Cherbourg and Isle of Wight possibly minelaying. (V.A.S. 1326/14 to UNIQUE).

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Cotd.).

Tyne Blyth.	Tyne open. Blyth still closed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1327/14 to LOWESTOFT).
Tyne.	Port Open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1400/14).
Thames Estuary.	Balloon Drifter in position 51 28' 9" North 0 51' 45" East reports that at 1845/13 a parachute and splash of mine dropping in sea was observed 500 yards S. by W. from this position. In view of depth of water there appears to be a good chance of recovery of mine. (C.in C. Nore 1411/14 to Adty).
B.S.46.	Completed. Length 7 miles. PLOVER did not lay. (TEVIOT BANK 1446/14 to Adty).
Hartlepool.	One mine exploded spontaneously at 1410/14 in 54° 39' 45" N., 1° 7' 18" W., (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1515/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Blyth.	My 2247/13. Not now anticipated that Port will be opened till 1400/15. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1528/14 to Adty).
FAIRY.	(Motor Vessel 204 tons) Mined 1-1/2 miles E. of Chequer Shoal Buoy at 1110 today. Ship has been towed into Grimsby Roads and salvage is being atempted. Speed 6-1/2 knots. Course S.E. by E. Explosion 10 yards dead astern. Large flame. Three men injured. (F.O. Humber 1612/14 to C.in C. Nore).
Firth of Forth.	Approximate positions of 11 Mines laid and 4 splashes reported on 13/11 are as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 1621/14 to Adty).
Acoustic Mines. Precautions.	To safeguard against accoustic mines following precautions are recommended wher in mined waters:- (D.M.S. 1730/14) (Ad.Message Home 952.AZ).
Harwich Area. Search.	Your 1601/14 weather permitting intend

/sailing

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Harwich Area. Search. (Contd.)	sailing 5 or 6 Fleet Sweepers at 0730 tomorrow to make high percentage search of Area ordered. Request Air protection South Ship Wash at 0830. Thence to 52° 05' North at 1000 and between 52° 5' North 1° 51' East 52° 12' N 1° 59' East from 1000 to 1630, then for return to Harwich.
Humber.	1108 a skid exploded a mine in 262° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.4 miles. At 1115 and 1125 mines exploded near the Fairey and Robrix in 170 Chequer Shoel Buoy 5 cables and 154° Chequer Shoal Buoy four and a half cables. L.L. trawlers report explosions appeared of magnetic type and that they swept over these positions at 1015. (F.O. Humber 1800/14 to Adty).
Harwich Area.	Weather permitting intend sailing 3 Paddle Minesweepers tomorrow Friday at 0730 to continue clearance to west of 'X'. Request fighter protection from 0830 to 1530 between 51 degs. 50" North, 01 degs. 47" East and 51 degs. 45" North, 1 deg. 41" East. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1911/14 to C.in C. Nore).
Plymouth.	Since my 1848/12 one Mine exploded spontaneously in 160 degs. Breakwater Fort 9 cables at 0557. (C.in C. W.A. 2002/14 to Adty).
Belfast.	D.G. range closed. Suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2245/14).
Forth of Forth.	Minelaying on a heavy scale has taken place in Firth of Forth tonight 13/14. 13 mines have been reported falling and approximate positions noted. (C.in C. Rosyth 2358/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Lister. D/F bearings at 1012 B.S.T. indicate Enemy. Surface Craft in area off Lister Light. (D.D.I.C. 1124/14 to C.in C. H.F.) (V.A.S. 1149/14 to S/M's Area A).

Bergen. From W.T.I. It is possible that a German Naval Unit may leave Bergen area this evening for the Skaggerak. (D.D.I.C. 1850/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

THE BOYS. (H.M. DRIFTER). Foundered at 0800/14 near S.W. Goodwin Buoy while in tow of Tug. Crew rescued by tug. (V.A. Dover 1057/14 to Adty).

High Speed Launch 104. Search for Launch, broken down in 56° 22'N., 0° 47'W, at1030. Do not enter Mine Barrier. (C.in C. Rosyth 1122/14 to KELLETT) One A/C remains over Launch. Remaining 3 trying to lead you to her. (C.in C. Rosyth 1638/14 to KELLETT). Tow Launch to Aberdeen if weather suitable, otherwise Dundee. (C.in C. Rosyth 2253/14 to KELLETT).

VEGA. Weather permitting intend sail VEGA in tow of ST. MELLONS for Hull on 16/11. Proposed route. (C.in C. Nore 1216/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

NORTHERN PRINCESS. Have ship in tow in 62° 6'N., 16° 32'W. Proceeding Reykjavik. (NORTHERN DUKE 1300/14 to S.O. Trawlers N.P.)

AUSTRALIA. Pronounced vibration from shafts causing concern. Further report will be made. (AUSTRALIA 0854/14).

FAME. Attempt to refloat was made today. Heavy swell developed about half tide. Vessel commenced pounding heavily and was flooded down. It is anticipated that bottom has sustained further damage extent of which cannot be ascertained until A.M. tomorrow Friday. Further report will then be made. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2235/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

S.L.53. Join S.L.53 . position and route. (C.in C. W.A. 1222/14 to SALADIN, CLARKIA) Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1540/14 to ARROW CROCUS, HEARTSEASE, etc.)

S.L.56. R/V and date. (N.C.S.O. Freetown to Adty.) (in reply to 1843/12), (1037/14).

E.N. 25. Time. Additional escort. HASTINGS, JASON. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1050/14).

S.C.13. Route. Date. (D.T.D. 1535/14).

S.C.9. 7 hours late at R/V. scattered in gale, 26/10. All now reported. (D.T.D. 1745/14).

W.N. Concur your 2357/13. Important W.N. Convoys make passage of Pentland Firth before necessary to ask for shore light. (A.C.O.S. 1225/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

S.L.53. My 1317/13. 8 hours late at R/V. Endeavour meet before dusk. (C.in C. W.A. to BROKE, ARABIS, HEARTSEASE etc. 0950/14).

E.N., W.N. Your 2357/13. routing instructions. Concur. (C.in C. W.A. to C.in C. Rosyth), (1110/14).

W.N.36. NORTHERN GEM with past passing Duncansby Head at 1100. (A.C.O.S.1105/14).

W.N.35. Belgian ANVERS sunk during air attack at 1754/13. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0147/14).

H.G.46. Route. (C.in C. W.A. to WANDERER, WILD SWAN, WARWICK, CLARE, 1220/14).

E.N.26.) Additional A/A escort, FOWEY. (C.in C.
W.N.29.) Rosyth 1214/14).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

H.X.84. (Attacked by Raider 5/11).

Master of M.V. MORSKA WOLA (Polish) ex convoy H.X. 84 reports that he left convoy on 2/11 on account of engine defects and that he was 120 miles 300 degrees from scene of attack when it took place. Reports also that SAN DEMETRIO Tanker left convoy on 1/11 on account of engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2115/14).

Routes Compromised.

Wireless operator of Greek ship ANTONIOS CHANDRIS, sunk by German raider reports that (1) instructions for rejoining convoy by D.F.2. wireless log previous to February 1940 shows position of general convoy routes between Canada and United Kingdom have fallen into hands of enemy.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1774/14).

W.S.4.B.

My 2121/11. AUSTRALIA to be sailed from Clyde as additional escort. (D.O.D.(H) 1103/14). DEVONSHIRE to form part of escort to the Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 0036/14 to C.in C. S.A.) Route. (C.in C. W.A. 1331/14). Adty 1435/14. To proceed from Freetown as one convoy escorted by CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE.
(D.O.D.(F) 0038/14).

W.S.4A.)
W.S.4C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Air Reconnaissance

Your 1635/13 and 2315/13. Reconnaissance by Walrus A/C report 1 destroyer, 1 sloop and 1 M.V. 006° 20' N., 002° 26' E., steering 236° at 0724. (C.S.I., 0914A/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

Salvage Libreville

Nigerian marine Salvage expert and plant available and ready to proceed Libreville p.m/15. Guaranteed payment under A.F.O. 3360/40 (C.S.I., 1031/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

CANADA

Sailed French Hospital ship CANADA E.T.A. 21/11. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1104/14 to Admty.)
Sailed from Liverpool 1104/14 through N. Channel and through 055° 17' N., 006° 00' W. speed 11 knots. Safe conduct does not operate until 17/11. Intercept and send to Belfast or Clyde to wait until then. (C. in C., W.A. 1521/14 to WESTCOTT)
Your 1813 (asking whether CANADA had been intercepted) Reply No. Am 4 miles past her estimated position. (WESTCOTT 1840/14 to C. in C., W.A.)
My 1840/14, intend patrolling between Mull of Kin Tyre to Altacarryhead to intercept CANADA. (WESTCOTT 1911/14 to C. in C., W.A.)
Following to CANADA. If you have not already met British destroyer proceed to Clyde and await orders. (C. in C., W.A. 2115/14 to WESTCOTT)

PRIMAUGUET

Report received from secret source, Tangier that she sailed from Casablanca night of 11/11 South bound. (B.1.) F.O.C.N.A. 0008/14 to C. in C., S.A.) Repeated by C. in C., S.A. 1315N/14 to 1st Cruiser Squadron)

FORT DE TROYON (French, 5206 tons)

Free French Authorities apprehensive FORT DE TROYON may try to reach a Vichy port. Carried armed guard, ships asked to keep a good look out. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 1459/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Port Gentil.....

MOST SECRET

14.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French- Contd.

Port Gentil Occupied

Port Gentil occupied by Free French at 0830. Although both ports at present are without seaward defence there would appear to be little object in continuation patrol now in Libreville Port Gentil area. On leaving Lagos in NEPTUNE intend proceeding to interview authorities at Duala and obtain their views on future defence of this area without in any way committing H.M.G.
In meanwhile propose leaving patrol vacant after 16th November. (C.S.I. 1052A/14 to Admty.)

Patrol to Continue

Do not wish to maintain patrol off the Duala to Point Noire area longer than necessary, but in view of promises to de Gaulle the patrol must be maintained. Suggestion re interview at Duala and use of guns ex BOUGAINVILLE for coast defence. (1st S.L. 2331/14 to C.S. 1.)

F.O.C.I.C.S. 1052A/14 (proposal to proceed to Manoka to interview authorities at Duala) I concur but consider some force should remain in this area for present such force depends on C.S. 1's report after interview with authorities at Duala (C. in C., S.A. 2019/14 to Admty.)

Enemy Reports

Following received from aircraft attached to DEVONSHIRE. 2 destroyers 1 M.V. bearing 287° distant 6 miles approx. course 236° My position 060, 6° N., 2° E., 36, based on a fix obtained within half an hour of 0700 (DEVONSHIRE 0720/14 to DRAGON)

Your 1735/13 and your 2315/13.
Reconnaissance by Walrus aircraft reports one destroyer one Sloop and one Merchant vessel in position 006° 20' N., 002° 26' E steering 236° at 0724. (C.S.1., 09144/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

/INDO-CHINOIS....

MOST SECRET

14.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

INDO-CHINOIS

Your 1039/13 para (2) re sailing of INDO-CHINOIS. Request information what local agents being employed, undesirable should be known yet that ship is likely to sail. No accommodation at Freetown for passengers of INDO-CHINOIS and unlikely from para (6) of your signal that any neutral ship will be available in near future intend to ask Governor, Sierra Leone to repatriate over border to French Guinea. If the 1258 passengers in CUBA are to be repatriated further alternative might be to ask French to send ship for them under safe conduct. An internment camp in Sierra Leone to take a large number where crews and passengers of ships could be accommodated temporarily or permanently is important requirement. Possible that a transport might be brought in at any time and no organization exists to accommodate troops while arrangements for internment or repatriation are made. (C. in C., S.A. 1759/14 to Admty.)

CUBA
French Enquiry

My 1731/22/8 and your 1844/14/9. French N.A. tells me CUBA sailed from Martinique 26/10 for Casablanca and has not been heard of. Can I give any news. (N.A. Madrid 2015/14 to Admty.

MOST SECRET

14.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operations "White" and "Collar"

Your 2120/11 re R.V. of NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD for "White" and "Collar" para (iii) Amended R/V with SHEFFIELD position at 1500/21. (S.O. Force H., 1134/14 to Admty.)

Operation "Collar"

Arrangements (S.O.Force H 1643/14 to C. in C., Med. See Operations Volume.

DESPATCH
WRESTLER

Arrived Gibraltar 14/11, 1200. (S.O. (1) Gibraltar 1244/14 to Admty.)

TRIUMPH

Report e.t.a. 270° Cape Trafalgar 35 miles which should be in daylight. KINGSTON TURQUOISE now on patrol in Cadiz area to N. of 036° 31' N., will escort you from position off Cape Trafalgar to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A., 1634/14 to TRIUMPH)

ARK ROYAL

Air Min. X 146 14/11 suggests 2 R/V's with ARK ROYAL. Either 38° 10' N., 3° 20' E., at 1700 zone minus one 16/11 Or approximately 37° 55' N., 7° E., at 0800 zone minus one 17/11. F.O.H. prefers first position which could be combined with his requested reconnaissance Request observation of recognition procedure. (200 Group, 1735/14 to H.Q. Malta.

Re Aerial Parachute mines and Aerial Parachute anti pursuit mines (S.O. Force H 2142/14 to Admty.)

Operation "White"

Your 1927/12 para 2. 16/11 for Force H and 18/11 or possibly 17/11 for NEWCASTLE (S.O.Force H., 2034/14 to V.A.Malta)

DESPATCH

Admiralty 1633/8. Desired DESPATCH should return A and W.I. Station as soon as possible. Requested arrange for NEWCASTLE to return Gibraltar immediately she has completed discharge at Malta subject concurrence C. in C., Med. NEWCASTLE then to escort ARGUS to U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 2235/14 to F.O.Force H.)

" /Corvettes...

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Corvettes

Reply to S.O.Force H., 1435/13. All four corvettes are fitted with A/S. Remarks on their seakeeping qualities. (D.O.D. (H) 1254/14)

CAMPOAMOR FULGOR

On occasion of sinking of KINGSTON SAPPHIRE in vicinity of Cadiz, tanker claiming to be Spanish CAMPOAMOR was in immediate vicinity. Almost certain not her and probably Italian FULGOR which had slipped out from Cadiz. All Spanish tankers should be carefully scrutinized bearing in mind that Spanish markings should be painted on the hull and not merely displayed on a board on the poop. CAMPOAMOR has now left Port Arthur 6/11 for Santander. (F.O.C.N.A. 1251/14)

Spanish A/C Shot down

Request your remarks on Madrid telegram No 141 to Gibraltar (re Spanish Savoia 17 A/C stated to have been shot down by British Squadron) which F.O.C.N.A. is requested to report to you. (V.C.N.S. to F.O. Force H., 1129/14)

Your 1129. Possible aircraft in question was Savoia referred to in Para. 2. of my 0723/11.
2 experienced pilots of Fulmar Section report positively S. 79 had Italian tail markings. Fasces markings also observed on fuselage.
FIREDRAKE fired one round A.A. which nearly hit and ARK ROYAL indicated direction to Fighters by A.A. Gunfire. Pilot of 1st Fighter to attack reports S. 79 back gunner opened fire first on our aircraft. I personnaly observed this machine and entertained no doubt but that it was an Italian Shadower. (S.O. Force H 1615/14 to Admty., Amended 1851/14)

Operation "White"

Outline plan.
(ii) All Forces less NEWCASTLE leave Gibraltar before dawn 15/11 and remain in company until South of Majorca at dusk, 16/11.

/(iii).....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operation "White"-Contd.

(iii) If weather conditions suitable and operation "White" (? to be detected) bombing attack will be carried out on Alghero aerodrome on night of 17-17/11.
(iv) Skua and Hurricanes fly off dawn 17/11 from approx. position 037° 55' N., 007° 30' E.
(v) NEWCASTLE proceeds independently leaving Gibraltar either p.m./16 or p.m./17 to arrive Malta a.m./18 or 19/11.
(S.O.Force H., 2120/14 to Admty.)

My 1622/12 and C. in C., W.A. 1535/13. Request NEWCASTLE's route or speed be modified to enable her to arrived Gibraltar before 0700/17.
NEWCASTLE can sail from Gibraltar by 1900/16 the degree of cover provided by Force H is substantially increased.
If departure from Gibraltar is delayed until 1900/17 it is possible that movement may escape detection for reason given in my 1132/12 para 3.
In view of urgency for these reinforcements to reach Malta intend NEWCASTLE shall proceed if able to leave by about 1900/17
(S.O.Force H., 2130/14 to Admty.)

Air Reconnaissance

Your A. 795 14/11. F.O.H. cannot agree your suggestion. Suggests sacrificing effectiveness of your recco. to westward 16/11 and complying with first suggestion in my A.240 14/11. Also states rendezvous Hurricanes and Sunderland is 5 miles North of Galita Island not Skerki Bank. Signal your decision. (200 Group 2335/14 to H.Q. Malta)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

DUNDAS — D. of S.T. 0841/28/9 and my 0935/30/10 overdue Shanghai any news (S.O.(1) Capetown, 1224B/14 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE W.S. 4.B. — Admty. 1435/4. W.S. 4.A. and W.S. 4.C. are to proceed from Freetown as one convoy escorted by CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE (C. in C., S.A. 0038/14)

Arrival CORNWALL 1700/14 escorting convoy W.S. consisting of STIRLING CASTLE, WARWICK CASTLE, DUNEDIN STAR, PORT WYNDHAM, HIGHLAND MONARCH, CLAN CHATTAN, CLAN LAMONT and SCYTHIA. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 1916N/14)

U.S.N. and bases — Local American Consuls have approached Colonial Governments for information on aircraft facilities, landing grounds, seaplane bases, etc., in Colonies. Information required by U.S. Navy Dept. Request instructions as to policy. (G.O.C. W. Africa, to W.D. 1930/14)

SELANDIA — Position re suggested use as a hospital ship. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1715/14)

Mediterranean

Operations Report 8/11 - 14/11. — My 1357/4. Convoy movements to Piraeus, Suda Bay and Malta carried out according to plan under cover of Main Fleet and without incident. EAGLE did not take part in operation owing to defective petrol system, but some of her aircraft and crew embarked in ILLUSTRIOUS.

8/11. One Cant 501 which was shadowing convoy MW 3 was driven off and damaged by two Gladiators. Cant later seen in sea by Swordfish on search. Later Fulmars intercepted formation of 7 S 79's 30 miles from and approaching Fleet. They shot down one, saw crew bale out from Vent and the rest jettisoned their high explosives whilst retiring. RAMILLIES was detached a.m./9 to join convoy and escorted it to Malta a arriving 1900 that evening. Fleet cruised to eastward of Hurd and Medina Bank during day and at 1647 Fulmars shot down one Cant 506.

/BARHAM.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Operations Report 8/11-14/11 Contd.

BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW and destroyers met at 1015/10 50 miles west of Gozo. Fleet cruised to southward of Malta during the day while ships unloaded and destroyer fuelled. Convoy ME 3 sailed escorted by RAMILLIES, COVENTRY and destroyers, TERROR at 1500. At 1230 one Cant 506 was shot down by Fulmars but at 1325 a half hearted HLB attack was made by 9 S 79's. One formation attacked by Fulmars who damaged one. Bombs very wide and only a few within area occupied by Fleet.

Fleet left vicinity of Malta 1900/10 and shaped course towards Sapienza turning north east at noon for F.A.A. Attack on Taranto (known as operation JUDGMENT) and raided Straits of Otranto. V.A.L.F. in H.M.S. ORION who had visited Athens and Suda Bay rejoined a.m./11 and was later detached with 7th C.S. NUBIAN and MOHAWK for Otranto Raid. Fortunately all Units of Fleet evaded detection during this passage.

R.A. (A) Mediterranean in ILLUSTRIOUS with 3rd C.S. and 4 destroyers detached at 1800 to fly off Air Striking Force off Cephalonia, while Battle Fleet covered this Force to westwards during night. Details of F.A.A. attack and V.A.L.F.'s raid already reported.

ILLUSTRIOUS (?rejoined) 0730/12 off Zante and V.A.L.F. at 1030. Fleet proceeded south and southwest till 1400. Between 1115 and 1228 Fulmars shot down two Cant 501 and one Cant 506 which were attempting to shadow and report Fleet. The latter fell in flames close to Fleet. It is thought that none of these Cants succeeded in reporting Fleet. This was important as I had decided in consultation with V.A. (A) Mediterranean to repeat attack on Taranto if conditions remained favourable.

MALAYA and YORK were however short of fuel and it was therefore decided to detach MALAYA, BARHAM and AJAX with 5 Destroyers (?) to Suda Bay to fuel and to send YORK and BERWICK to Alexandria, and they parted company before dark.

/Unfortunately.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations Report 8/11-14/11, Contd.

Unfortunately evening weather forecast showed unfavourable conditions in Gulf of Taranto and repeat attack had to be abandoned. Remainder of Fleet therefore shaped course for Alexandria at 1815 and arrived a.m./14. A Cant 501 which sighted and reported Fleet at 1500/13 was chased by Fulmars and probably damaged.
Convoy ME 3 arrived Alexandria a.m./13.

During week of operation ILLUSTRIOUS lost 3 Swordfish due to forced landings in sea but all crews were saved.

These operations have shown incstimable value of Suda Bay as a fuelling Base.

(C. in C., Med., 0945/14)

R.A.F. Taranto Attack

Special operational Summary. Taranto attacked night 13/11 in accordance my A 784 13/11 and a.m. 975 13/11. Operation carried out by 10 Wellingtons. 7 dropped 14500 lbs G.P. bombs and 1440 lbs. incendiaries on Eastern part of main dock in inner harbour from avarage height 7000 feet. Many bombs seen to explode in target area and incendiaries started at least 7 fires, one very bright fire was followed by a big explosion. The fire was visible 50 miles away. Another huge explosion was seen to light up the town of Taranto after the aircraft observing had flown 15 minutes from the target area. 2 aircraft dropped 4500 lbs G.P. bombs and 480 lbs incendiaries on naval oil tanks and destroyer pens of dockyards inner harbour both from 10,000 ft. Incendiaries started 4 fires south of oil dumps and another between Eastern dock area and destroyer pens. A stick of 5 bombs was seen exploding along wall and pens where many destroyers were docked. One aircraft saw fires burning in this target area 8 minutes before bearing Taranto. One aircraft dropped 2,250 lbs G.P. bombs and 240 lbs incendiaries on esplanade at Cantioro Quoirolo, Eastern Coast of outer harbour, from 9000 feet. Results not seen. Weather clear en route and over target. Targets easily identified by coastline and ships visible in moonlight.

/Intense.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

R.A.F. Taranto Attack-Contd.	Intense light but inaccurate A.A. from all -ships in harbour and moderate heavy inaccurate from Piotro Island West of outer harbour. Inaccurate A.A. from Cape Passaro and Crotono. 2 ineffective searchlights Catanzarol. No enemy aircraft, balloons or searchlights were seen in target area. All 10 Wellingtons returned safely. (H.Q.Malta, 0645/14)
Taranto Photographs	Request you arrange for 2 copies photographs of Taranto taken after F.A.A. attack to be sent U.K. Suggest Sunderland from Malta referred to in H.Q. R.A.F., M.E's A414 21/10 could drop in suitable water-tight container on selected ship of Force H. Request 200 Group arrange with Force H and inform H.Q., Mediterranean. Photographs to be despatched U.K. by B.O.A.C.CLYDE calling Gibraltar approximately 19/11. (Air Min., to Malta, 1425/14)
Sunderland Reconnaissance	Your A. 240 14/11. As two Sunderlands required to R.V. with Hurricanes at dawn on 17/11, One Sunderland only is available for recco. to Westward on 16/11. Latter patrol to be effective can only be extended to 0.7° 30' East on that day. Propose therefore that of two Sunderlands requested in S.O.H.Force, 1533/12 to patrol five mile North of Skerki Bank. One Sunderland should R.V. with carrier and drop photo. on her in position and time Hurricanes are due to take off. This Sunderland can then accompany Hurricanes and Skuas to Malta picking up second Sunderland at Skerki Bank en route. (H.Q.Malta 1855/14 to 200 Group.)
Taranto, Air Reconnaissance	0336-1250. Photographic R.C. of Taranto to ascertain damage done by F.A.A. and by Wellingtons night 13/14. Outer harbour near T shaped jetty, one battleship CAVOUR Class submerged. One battleship or cruiser just north of Bersaglio surrounded with submarine nets. VITTORIO battleship in same position and condition as previously but surrounded by destroyers and other small craft, also by a square of submarine netting.

/6 destroyers.... ..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Taranto, Air Reconnaissance-Contd.

6 destroyers dispersed different angles in northern end of outer harbour. Quantity of oil over outer harbour. Re Balloons. 12 destroyers, at least 13 submarines alongside jetty, also 2 cruisers 1200 yards to north of quay, 2 cruisers apparently normal in same position as previously. Approx. 200 yards from main docks, shapes of 4 vessels submerged. (H.Q., R.A.F., Med 1800/14)

My 2035/13. Analysis of photographs of Taranto 14/11.
(a) LITTORIO B. Stem is in position 293° 15 cables Secca Della Tarantola Beacon. Bow is now well above water and ship has small list to port. A Fleet attendant possibly an Oiler is still alongside starboard side presumably pumping out. Other auxiliaries are port side. Nets have been laid all round her. CAVOUR C. Confirmed that ship is beached in position already given. Ship is upright with an auxiliary probably an Oiler alongside. Nets have been laid all round

CAVOUR F. Ship has apparently been abandoned and is lying heeled to starboard with only superstructure and port shield of upper deck from stem to after funnel above water.
(b) Other Battleships and eight inch gun cruisers have left Taranto.
(c) Inner Harbour. Two Cruisers eight destroyers and four torpedo boats are stern to wall and there are 12 submarines in pens and basin Cruisers and destroyers have nets from stem to stern. The other ships probably including the two damaged six inch guns Cruisers have left Taranto
(d) Little damage is apparent in dockyard as a result of night bombing raid.
(e) The Pilot of reconnaissance aircraft reported 4 shapes below water off entrance to Graving dock in inner harbour. As these do not appear on photograph I consider it is very unlikely they are the two damaged Cruisers originally reported. (V.A.Malta 2247/14 to Admty.)

/Taranto Attack.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Taranto Attack

It had been intended to carry out F.A.A. attack on Taranto on 21/10, when conditions of moon were suitable, but owing to a fire in ILLUSTRIOUS the operation had to be abandoned for that date. I again considered doing it when Fleet was off West Coast Greece on 31/10- 1/11 but there was then no moon and as it would have had to be carried out with flares in using which the Squadron had had very little practice, I decided against it. It was, however, fortunate that attack was not made on either of these occasions as existence of nets and Balloons had not then been discovered.
Many conditions had to be just right to give good chance of success, such as state of moon, weather, an undetected approach by Fleet, and good air reconnaissance. The flying boats and Glen Martin Squadron working from Malta under A.O.C. in close co-operation with N.O.i/c Malta, provided necessary reconnaissance often under difficult and hazardous conditions and I would like to pay a high tribute to their valuable work which contributed so much to successful outcome of the attack.
(C. in C., Med. 2201/14)

R.A.F. Attacks

Operational Summary No 157 to 1200/14.
Para 1. Greece Night 12/13 Nov. Wellingtons successfully attacked Bari, Durazzo and Valona starting fire in oil refinery Bari. Fire started at Durazzo night 11/12 Nov. by Wellingtons still burning. Ammunition dumps and M.T. hit at Valona. 1607/13 3 Blenheim aircraft bombed Argyrokastron aerodrom, starting fires and damaging 2 aircraft on ground. Blenheim aircraft maintained standing fighter patrol over Athens and provided a convoy escort patrol. All aircraft returned safely.

French M.V's

Para 2. Egypt 13/11. A Sunderland operating from Suda Bay sighted 4 French merchant ships in position 34° 40' N., 25° 25' E., steaming East. Night 13/14 Nov. Blenheims of 113 and 55 Sqdns. successfully bombed

Coast Attacks

shipping Benghazi, barracks Derna, Bardia and Sidi Barrani, starting large fire at Derna.

/Also.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operational Summary 157-Contd.

APHIS. Bombardment

Also co-operated with APHIS in bombardment from Sea of Maktila. No important shipping observed Benghazi. All aircraft returned safely.

Alexandria Raid

Night 13/14 Nov. few enemy bombers made 2 attacks on Alexandria bombs falling in harbour and at Mex. No R.A.F. damage or casualties reported. 32 civilians killed Destroyer hit by incendiary bomb. No details of damage or casualties.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.,1139/14)

SS ZAMZAM Damaged

Egyptian SS ZAMZAM (8299 tons) received considerable damage in air raid on Alexandria 14/11 (D.S. 441)

Following is my summary of operations involved in passage of military forces to Greece.

(a) 14 knot convoy M.T. ships leaves Alexandria early a.m./15 for Piraeus by Kaso Straits. Escort COVENTRY, VAMPIRE, NUBIAN, MOHAWK. E.T.A. at Pirae about 1800/16.

(b) One 16 knot M.T. Ship leaves Port Said p.m. 14. to rendezvous with (a) in position 035° 10' N., 029° 00' E., at 1200/15.

(c) On arrival of (a) and (b) at Piraeus destroyers return to Alexandria. COVENTRY to Suda Bay to fuel then to Canada.

(d) Convoy A.N. 7, 6 knots, leaves Port Said 1200/15 for Piraeus Kaso Straits escort ILEX.

(e) Two ships escorted by two A/S trawlers leave Alexandria p.m. 15th to rendezvous with A.N. 7 in 033° 30' N., 028° 02' E., at 0700/17.

(f) CALCUTTA leaves Alexandria and WRYNECK leaves Suda Bay to join A.N. 7 at rendezvous given in (e)

/(g).....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

(g) On arrival at Piraeus CALCUTTA, ILEX WRYNECK await orders, trawlers proceed to Suda Bay.

(h) V.A.L.F. proceeds with Ships ORION and AJAX as requisite to cover convoys and direct operations.

(j) 3rd C.S. and SYDNEY embarked troops and leaves Alexandria 1500/15 for Piraeus with despatch. After disembarking troops 3rd C.S. returns to Alexandria. SYDNEY joins V.A.L.F.

(k) F.O.C. 1st B.S. in BARHAM with VALIANT, EAGLE and 8 destroyers will proceed to Suda Bay to arrive 0700/17 and leaves again about sunset/17 for Alexandria passing by Kaso Straits in each case.

(l) Greek troop convoys will load at Suda Bay and Candia 17/11 and rendezvous a.m. for passage to Salonika. Speed 10½ knots. Escort of Greek destroyers. COVENTRY to provide A/A defence loading at Candia and for passage as far north as Doro Channel. (C. in C., Med., 1715/14)

Greek Troop Convoys

Your 1559/13. Intended movements in Aegean (Summary being repeated to you in my 1715/14 provide plenty of cover for Greek movements. COVENTRY has been detailed for A/A defence of Greek troop convoy as far north as Doro Channel. Carrier borne fighter aircraft will be in vicinity on 17/11. Date of arrangement of Greek Convoy is convenient. F.O. 2 in C., Med., will visit Piraeus, Suda Bay and Candia as necessary. (C. in C., Med., to N.A. Athens, 1745/14)

Submarines.
URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST

Admty. 0056/14. Submarines URSULA and UPRIGHT are to be placed under the orders of C. in C., Med., who is requested to inform F.O.C.N.A., as regards sailing and further movements. TRIUMPH is to remain at Gibraltar under orders of F.O.C.N.A. A., for the present. UTMOST to be sailed in accordance with Admty 1650/13 (A.C.N.S. (F) 14) to C. in C., Med., and F.O.C.N.A., 1748/

/Transports.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Transports — Speed of reinforcement of Malta and the Middle East is restricted by the rapidity with which 16 knot M.T. ships can be brought back to U.K. to reload.
Request you will consider passing SS DORSET PERTHSHIRE and PORT CHALMERS all ex W.S. 3 through to Gibraltar in ballast during operation COLLAR. (D.O.D. (F) 1816/14 to C. in C., Med.)

830 Squadron F.A.A. — Your 1431/8. Particulars of ratings detailed. (Bd. of P.M., to V.A.Malta, 2325/14)

Policy, Submarines — Gen. Wavell will show you signal Prime Minister has sent him regarding future operations. We know you will cooperate with him to fullest extent possible. In view of importance of cutting Italian lines of communication to Libya, 3 out of the 4 submarines now at Gibraltar will be put under your orders. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 0056/14)

Fulmars — 3 Fulmars gratefully received. They have been very busy. (C. in C., Med., 0300/14 to S.O.Force H.)

Greece — Situation Report for D.D.M.I. (M.A.Athens 0325/14 to W.O.)

Danish Ships Piraeus — Greek Government are unwilling to seize Danish tug VIKING and Danish ship MARIE MAERSK now at Piraeus for fear of political complications with Germany. Greek Government not averse to seizure by force by British at Piraeus.
Tug VIKING urgently required. Request concurrence in taking action. (C. in C., Med., 1203/14)

/Movements.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Movements — 1 Cruiser, 3 destroyers, 3 merchant vessels leaving vicinity of Alexandria about 0200/15 proceeding northward (Capt. S. 1. 1845/14 to RORQUAL)

Middle East Convoys — Proposal to run fast personnel ships through Mediterranean (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 2324/14) See Mediterranean Volume

German Units in Black Sea — Two M.T.B's German crews but flying no flag doubtful report from Constantza 11/11 (b) No German submarines reliably observed in any Black Sea port so far. (WOLFFSON 1655/14)

East Indies

Mogadishu Patrols — My 1910/12. COLOMBO will reconnoitre Mogadishu p.m./15, ordered to sink any merchant ships there if can be done without undue risk from enemy action. (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/14 to Admty.)

Air Report — Daily Intelligence Summary No 155 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500, 14/11. No naval incidents. (A.H.Q., Aden, 1830/14 to Air Min.)

DURMITOR — S.O.I. Singapore 0209/5. Request whereabouts of Yugoslav DURMITOR if known. S.O.I. Capetown reports cargo on board. (C. in C., E.I., 0550Z/14 to Admty.)

WESTRALIA — To remain in vicinity position given in my 1028/12 until daylight 15/11 and then proceed to Colombo arriving a.m./17 (C. in C., E.I. 0618Z/14)

Convoy B.N. 8½ — Following sailed from Bombay in B.N. 8½ 12/11, due Suez (date): DILWARA, RAJULA, ROHNA, NEVASA, LANCASHIRE, EGRA, TAIREA, TAKLIWA. Details. (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1215Z/14)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

China

TARANTULA — My 0436/6 TARANTULA further delayed date of completion not yet known. (C. in C., Chinn 0323Z/14 to Admty.)

AUTOMEDON — Request details of any mails for China Station which would have been on board ship now presumed lost due to enemy action and that arrangement may be made to forward duplicate Official correspondence. (C. in C., China, 0341/14 to Admty.)

OLE JACOBS
AUTOMEDON I — Your 1322/13 (Information re distress messages from Norwegian ship OLE JACOBS and British Ship AUTOMEDON I) OLE JACOBS carrying cargo of Kerosene, gasolene and Benzine for Near East but no Bunker or Diesel Fuel in cargo. Approximately 450 tons latter in Bunkers. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0348Z/14 to C. in C., E.I.)

America & West Indies

U.S. Patrol — My 1248/12. Navy Dept. inform me 4 destroyers are now patrolling off Tampico to shadow and observe German ships if they attempt to escape. Destroyers also sent to patrol Florida Straits. (N.A. Washington, 1159/14 to Admty.)

WINDSOR CASTLE
Evacuations — Re evacuation of Gibraltarian evacuees from U.K. to Jamaica. (D. of S.T. 1658/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

QUEEN ELIZABETH — My 1311/2 estimated draught on arrival Trinidad 38 feet. (D. of S.T. 1826/14 to C. in C., A. & W.I.)

N.C.S.O. New York 1700/12. N.C.S.O. New York is concerned about fuel and endurance worked out for complete voyage particularly the last stage as no allowance appears to have been made for evasively routeing. Suggest this might be checked. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1710/14 to Admty.)

/HELGOLAND.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

HELGOLAND — Route (See German Merchant Ships)

LEOPOLDVILLE — Admty. 2126/10. Will LEOPOLDVILLE be available for any passengers or troops from Halifax to U.K.? Beatty requests information if she is to be used for cargo on return voyage. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0941/14 to Admty.)

DESPATCH — To return to A.W.I. Station as soon as possible. (D.O.D. (F) 2235/14) (See North Atlantic)

New Zealand

BATORY — A.C.N.B. 0415/10. Asking why accommodation suitable for 1372 only. Ship fitted for 2067. In view of shortage of vessels suitable for trooping, maximum advantage must be taken of capacity available. (D.S.T. to N.Z.N.B., 2111/14)

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HELGOLAND

B.O. report HELGOLAND given following route at German Consulate. Old Providence Islands thence coastwise Gulf Mexico. Deck and Upper part painted green. N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to DIOMEDE. (S.O.I. Kingston 0941/14)

CERICO

German ship CERICO at Guayaquil has made unofficial enquiries re cost of extensive repairs at Balboa (A.2)
Understood would be more economical at Callao. Request investigation whether any enquiries made your Port. Pass to PRINCE ROBERT (S.O.I., Jamaica 0904/14, 0907/17 to S.O.I., Callao)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

VILLE D'ALGER
KATIOLA

VILLE D'ALGER and KATIOLA are expected to sail from Casablanca shortly. Destinations former not known but probably South America (F.O.C.N.A. 1239/14)

MOST SECRET

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0139) 0322)	59° - 60° N., 21° - 22° W., indefinate position (D.S. 436)
0923	In Bay of Biscay, approx 5° W., indefinite position (D.S. 436)
1330	Aircraft report, enemy submarine in 55.55 N 10.55 W., at 1330 approx. (C. in C., W.A. 1607/14) My 1607. Submarine when first sighted was on surface steering approx. 20° 16 knots. Keep well clear. (C. in C., W.A. to AUSTRALIA, 1713/14)
1815	Following Signal intercepted by Adcock and passed to R.A.F. Sumbrough for information)- To Lava Cobber from Monainz what appears to be Conning Tower of a submarine sighted in our Territorial Waters 1/4 mile off Rinn Point Galway Bay at 1815 hours this evening" (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 2145/14 to A.C.O.S.,)
Estimated U-Boat Dispositions	Italian- 1 in N.W. Approaches North of 55° N., and probably West of 15° W. 1 or possibly 2 in Bay of Biscay approx. 5° W., Germnn- 1 in 55° 14' N., 10° 29' W., at 2030/13. 1 probably within 100 miles of Bloody Foreland. 1 in area 59°-60° W., 20° 22° W. Otherwise situation is obscure but there may be one more in area 54°- 56° N., 13°-15° W., and 2 in area 57°-59° N., 18° 20° W., (D.D.I.C. 1210/14)

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

All Cruisers in Home Waters to be placed under administration of C.in C. H.F.

It is proposed that in future all cruisers in Home Waters be placed under the administration of C.in C. H.F.

Provision of Cruisers for other Home Commands.

Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands to be made as follows when it is necessary to station them in the South for anti-invasion duties:-
(a) Either the 2nd or 15th C.S. or part of them, to be placed under the temporary operational control of C.in C. Nore, and stationed at either the Nore or the Humber.
(b) Either the 10th or 18th C.S., or part of them, to be placed under the temporary operational control of C. in C. W.A., and stationed at Plymouth and Clyde.
(c) Admiralty will give instructions regarding the number of cruisers to be detailed in accordance with (a) and (b)
(d) C. in C. H.F. will order reliefs as necessary.
Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1227/15 to C.in C. H.F. Nore, W.A.)
Your 1227/15. Concur (C.in C. Nore 1535/15 to Adty.)
Your 1227/15. Concur. But consider para.(b) should read "Plymouth or Clyde". Otherwise it will lead to there being no cruisers in the North again. (C.in C. H.F. 1743/15 to Adty.)
Your 1227/15. Concur. (C.in C. W.A.2131/15 to Adty.)

Passage of Swedish oil tankers.

(1) My 1542/2. Swedish Adty. again approached me re British safe conduct to Gothenburg of Naval tankers BERA, SVEADROTT, CASTOR. All cargo for Navy use except 10% CASTOR's shipment which is for B.P.
(2) Though unwilling to permit me to sight statistic Naval oil consumption, they state present drastic economy is impairing value of training and limiting Naval movements. They add, further restrictions might (?word omitted) Swedish Naval Forces incapable of guarding territorial waters.
(3) My belief is that Navy still does best to maintain patrols, and that on West Coast where German T/B's and trawlers, a according to my information frequently show themselves on fringe of Swedish waters, it seems to our advantage to help them when need for oil becomes urgent.
(N.A. Stockholm 1231/15).

Value of DIDO class as A/A Escorts.

Request report of average performance of DIDO-class long-range A/A armament in practice firings, under the following heads. (A.C.N.S. H. 1804/15 to C.S.15).

Rosyth. A/P Trawlers for Patrols.

Request A/P Vessels specified in SOAP. Leith's 1040/14 may be provided as soon as possible. (C.in C. Rosyth 2014/15 to D.S.V.P.)

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/15. (D.C. 1203/15) At 2300/15 (D.C. 2330/15).

Plymouth A/A Defences. Your 2225/14. C.in C. W.A's proposal agreed to, subject to old-type V.L.A's being used. (Air Ministry 1150/15 to Adty.)

Movements.

LINCOLN. To comply with my 2020/13, arrive in 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles at 1630. (C.in C. W.A. 0057/15 to LINCOLN).

EDINBURGH } ETA. Greenock 1300/15. Request Fighter
PHOEBE } protection. (C.in C. W.A. 0115/15 to H.Q.F.C.)

More. Dispositions for Night 15/16. (C.in C. More 0800/15).

KENYA. Your 2021/14. Suggest she comes to Scapa instead of waiting at Belfast. (C.in C. H.F. 0953/15 to C.in C. W.A.). Request you sail KENYA to Scapa to continue working up. (C.in C. W.A. 1605/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

ABERDEEN. My position 52° 50' N. 28° 2' W. course 260°, making good 4½ knots.
Propose either return U.K. or proceed Halifax. (ABERDEEN 1200/15 to C.in C. W.A.) Return to U.K. (C.in C. W.A. 2039/15 to D.S., ABERDEEN).

HIGHLANDER } Detach Ships at dark/15 to Lough Foyle.
OTTAWA } They will be required for Escort duties
ST. LAURENT } A.M./16. (C.in C. W.A. 1327/15 to
GARLAND } REVENGE).

Dover. Patrols for Night 15/16. (V.A. Dover 1429/15 to Adty.)

Orkneys. Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1527/15)
Positions at 2000/15. (A.C.O.S.1542/15).

Rosyth. Movements for Night 15/16. (C.in C. Rosyth 1542/15).

Western Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1730/15).

NEWCASTLE. Adty's 1057/15 and 1232/15. ETA. 1700/16. G.M.T. (NEWCASTLE 1828/15 to F.O.C. N.A.)

VIMY. On completing present duty, proceed Rosyth. (R.A.D. H.F. 2155/15 to VIMY).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Collar"
FURIOUS
SOUTHAMPTON
NEW ZEALAND STAR
HAVELOCK
HESPERUS
FRANCONIA
CLAN FORBES
CLAN FRASER

C.in C. W.A. 1217/10. Secret Positions and Code Names. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1001/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).
My 1217/10. Amended position K (C.in C. W.A. 1205/15 to C.S.18, SOUTHAMPTON).
FURIOUS E.T.A. Freetown. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1239/15 to C.in C. S.A.).
Sailed FURIOUS and NEW ZEALAND STAR escorted by HAVELOCK and HESPERUS as by C.in C. W.A. 1217/10 and my 1738/13. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1249/15 to Adty.)
Sailed SOUTHAMPTON as by N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2000/14. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 2230/15 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)
FRANCONIA sailed 1717/15. CLAN FORBES sailed 1743/15 CLAN FRASER sailed 1745/15. Personnel and equipment. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 2355/15).

Iceland.

At about 1400/8/11 intercepted signal from Governor West Greenland to Station Master, Ellase, East Greenland, begins, On what do you base supposed arrival of Expedition. (F.O. Iceland 1025/15 to Adty.)
Intend sail A/S Trawler VAN OOST at 1300/16 for Reykjavik. Speed 10 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/15 to Adty.)

NAIAD
REPULSE
LETITIA

On completion of operation at Jan Mayer Island or at latest at 1500/17 NAIAD REPULSE and screen are to return to Scapa and LETITIA is to return to Clyde via the Minches. (C.in C. H.F. 1214/15).

Dover shelled.

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 7 rounds between 0900 and 1030 to-day. Shells fell near Royal Marine siege battery. (V.A. Dover 1909/15 to Adty.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Your 2055/11/11/40. BONAVENTURE was acting under the following orders from REPULSE, her senior officer:-
Proceed at 0400 to search for survivors principally to the North and East of 52° 50 N. 032° W. in accordance with Adty. 0125/8. Take MASHONA under your orders. I intend to sweep North West for raider to 59° N. then turn East for Scapa. Endeavour to rejoin me with MASHONA in 58° 35 N. 015° W. at noon G.M.T./10.
I calculate MASHONA'S fuel will just permit 20 knots when detached with you.
Ends. BONAVENTURE was detached at 0400/8 in approx. 55° 18' N. 27° 42 W.
Actually BONAVENTURE and MASHONA were unable to keep their R.V. owing to the weather. (C.in C. H.F. 1927/15 to Adty.)
Have searched area southward and eastward of 53° 15' N. 27° 20' W. in company with BONAVENTURE who leaves area P.M./16. Am not in touch with Destroyers.

/ Barometer .....

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations(Contd).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. (Contd.) Barometer report unsteady. Wind N.W. force 9. (CHITRAL 2030/15 to Adty).

Submarines.

H.28. Escorted by Z.5. exercising in Tay Sanctuary 1000 to 1500. (C.in C. Rosyth 0122/15 to MASHONA).

TRIDENT. To leave Patrol after dark/18 to meet CUTTY SARK in 300° Pendeen Watch House 5 miles at 0800/20. Route. (Capt: S.2. 1101/15 to TRIDENT).

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1419/15 to Adty).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/16. (V.A.S. 1639/15).

British Air Activity.

Reconnaissance cancelled. My 1732/14, para.2. Reconnaissance by Sunderland cancelled owing to unfavourable weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0018/15 to Adty).

Reconnaissance of Norwegian Coast. Will be carried out as early as possible today from Trondheim to Stadlandet, including Trondheim Fiord and Harbour. (C.in C. Rosyth 0330/15 to Adty).

Air Reconnaissances. No dawn reconnaissance. S.A.9 takes off at 0830. (C.in C. Nore 0749/15 to Adty).

Belfast. Air Restrictions. Your X.626.4/11 and our A.684.5/11. Please signal if proposed restrictions now agreed by all concerned. (H.Q. R.A.F. N.I.0930/15 to Air Ministry).

Operation. No.89. To be repeated tonight 15/16. (H.Q.C.C. 1315/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Standard Air Patrols suspended in Daylight hours.

W.A.C.I's/H Part III. Orders for maintenance of standard patrol are suspended as from dawn until 2 hours before dusk. During period this patrol will be replaced by a close patrol round the ship (s) under escort subject to the 2 provises laid down in part III paras. 1 (one) - 3. The main object of this close patrol is the protection of ships from enemy air attack and A/S protection is secondary object. From 2 hours before dusk until dusk the normal Patrol will be flown.

Aircraft have been informed that the Astern search is important.
(C.in C. W.A. 1909/15).

Trials of A.S.V. Apparatus.

Adty Letter A/NAD/708/40 of 4/10/40 to C.in C. H.F. Suggestions. (A.C.O.S.1910/15 to Adty).

Ostend, Dunkirk, Boulogne, Lorient, Bremen, Hamburg.

Attack by A/C. (H.W.B.C. 1959/15 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy AGENT.

Aircraft attacking in 52° 51'N., 2° 8'E. (WATCHMAN 0155/15).

DUNGENESS.

(A/P Trawler) Bombed and beached off Haisborough Light House at 0325/15. Tug LOWESTOFT sent. No casualties. Report suggests she may be refloated with help of Tug's pumps. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0533/15 to C.in C. Nore). Request Salvage Officer be sent. (C.in C. Nore 1746/15 to Adty).

APAPA.

(British, 9333 Tons). Bombed in 54° 31'N., 16° 34'W. (Port Patrick Radio 0934/15. On fire (Port Patrick Radio 0945/15). Proceed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1106/15 to tugs ASSURANCE and ENGLISHMAN) BROKE and BOULDERPOOL standing by. (ARAWA 1115/15 to Adty). APAPA has sunk (BROKE 1203/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

BLUE GALLEON.

(British, 712 Tons). Have picked up 11 survivors from ship. Sunk in about 52° 57'N., 1° 56'E. (WIDGEON 0225/15 to Adty). 3 of crew missing. Believed sunk near 56 B buoy. (WATCHMAN 0843/15). Report situation. Tug NORMAN is searching between 56 and 57 Buoys. (C.in C. Nore 0731/15 to WIDGEON).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Aircraft attacks of M/V's. Proposed, procedure and provision of Kites.	My 1913/9/11 attacks by enemy aircraft are now occurring daily. Request that NCSO's at home and overseas be directed to inform Masters that in the event of attack ships should not attempt to avoid damage by frequent zig-zagging since this hampers efficiency of A.A. fire and has no material effect on the enemy's bombing accuracy. Ships under attack should maintain a steady course only using their helm to assist in keeping their A.A. Armament Bearing. Many of these attacks are made from low altitude which would be frustrated by the flying of kites. It is requested that the provision of kites to all ships sailing independently may be hastened and also to ships sailing in Convoy, observing that there have now been three cases of Convoys being attacked outside the range of our fighters. (C.in C. W.A. 1741/15 to Adty).
Own ship, firing at own A/C.	A/C fired at by own destroyer. (C.in C. W.A. 0652/15).
U/P Equipment at Dover.	Your 1947/14. This appears to be the first attack of the type against which the U.P. equipment was designed. It is therefore most important that all evidence regarding the cause of the casualties should be obtained and sifted in order to ascertain if possible whether or not the U/P's were responsible for the casualties. Request therefore that, in view of the fact that future policy regarding mounting these equipments is now under consideration you will endeavour to obtain definite conclusions. (A.C.N.S. H. 1803/15 to V.A. Dover).
Rosyth.	Air Escort 16/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1848/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.11.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Coventry. Adty. Establishment severely bombed night 14th. Work at standstill. No serious casualties. (N.S.O. Coventry 1415/15 to Adty).

Convoy BOOTY. Shadowed by 1 A/C in 53° 18'N., 1° 4'E. (LOWESTOFT 1648/15).

Portsmouth. COLLINGWOOD report 2 bombs dropped in camp at 1305/15. Small damage. 3 serious casualties, 14 slight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1709/15 to Adty).

Convoy PILOT. One A/C bombing in 52° 12'N., 1° 55'E. (VERDUN 1752 and 1755/15) No bombs. Enemy retired eastwards. (VERDUN 1812/15)

Dover. Air Raid at 1430/14. Damage to Dockyard (Supt: C.E. Chatham 1802/15 to Civil Lord).

M.L.120. About 1340/14 suffered casualties to all 6 upper deck ratings from 2 low flying M.E. 109's which presented easy targets. But Machine Gun jammed after 2 rounds and C.O. reports he had been unable to get technical assistance for it at the base. (V.A.Dover 1903/15 to C.in C. Portsmouth). If full report from C.O. can be furnished I will have careful investigation made. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2327/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Firth of Forth.	Red mine exploded by L.L. Sweeper 14/11, 55° 03' 049" N., 03° 03' 38" W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 009/15 amended by 0940/15 to Admiralty).
Operation Z.M.E.1.	Completed. (ADVENTURE, 0330/15 to Admiralty).
BATH ST. ALBANS ST. MARY	C.in C. W.A. 2049/14. If these destroyers get involved in convoying shall I every see them again. Squadron was held up 6 weeks waiting for them. (R.A.M.L. 0031/15 to Admiralty).
MILFORD PRINCE SUNLIGHT.	MILFORD PRINCE reports 1 mine detonated by L.L. 043° Barrow Deep L.V. 1.2 miles. SUNLIGHT report 1 mine detonated by L.L. 074° Mouse L.V. 8 cables (Capt. M/S, 0944/15 to C.in C. Nore)
STRATHEARN (see 14/11)	My 1800/14. At 1040/14 Trinity House Vessel STRATHEARN was obliged to go astern inside boom. Mine exploded 1 cable on port beam. (F.O. Humber, 1014/15 to Admiralty).
Accustic Mines, precautions.	Re Admiralty 1730/14 cancel my 2224/27/9, 2154/14/10 and 2306/24/10. (C.in C. Nore 1039/15 to F.O., Yarmouth).
	Re Admiralty 952AZ 1730/14. Recommendations re speeds of A and B class M.L's in my 1118/: remain in force pending further experience. (C.in C. Nore, 1139/15 to F.O. Yarmouth) asking for information re accoustic mines (C.in C. H.F. 1640/15).
Minefields.	Your 1243/14. Propose first 2 fields be laid to cover 15 miles immediately inside 100 fathom line as follows (details). R.A.M.L. 1219/15 to Admiralty)
M.V. AMENITY damaged.	At 0717/15 M.V. AMENITY 297 tons damaged by mine explosion 53° 33' 20" N., 00° 09' 30" E. No casualties. Sank 53° 34. 2' N., 00° 10' E. at 0830. (F.O. Humber, 1225/15 to Admiralty). United Towing Co's tug proceeded from Hull 0820 to AMENITY of Hull mined off Spurn. (F.O. Humber, 0915/15 to Admiralty).
5th M.S.F.	On completion of present operations ships of 5th M.S.F. now in Rosyth command will be ordered to Aberdeen. Using that port as base, searches of direct route between Rattray Head and Duncansby Head to be arranged so that as far as possible route is searched in advance of southbound convoys but at such distances ahead of them that the gaps left between sweepers

and .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

and convoys cannot be mined by the enemy. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1303/15 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

Blyth.	My 2247/15 and 1528/14. Port is open, but Diesel ships can only enter or leave in tow. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1514/15 to Adty.)
GUARDSMAN sunk.	Tug GUARDSMAN sunk by mine, 1340/15, ½ cable E. of N.E. Spit Buoy. Seven survivors landed at Margate, 2 missing. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1550/15 to Admiralty).
Tees.	Port is open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1625/15 to Admiralty).
Harwich Clearance Sweeps.	Intend sailing 8 fleet sweepers and one paddle sweeper at 0730 tomorrow Saturday for clearance sweep of 148 Q.Z.S. 2-1/2 miles on either side of No. 52 buoy, extending from centre line 1-1/2 miles eastward. Request air portection from 0830 to 1630. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1858/15 to C.in C. Nore).
Sweeping.	Weather permitting intend sailing 3 P.M./S at 0730/16 to continue clearance to W.of X. Request Fighter protection from 0830 to 1530 between 51° 50' N. 01° 47' E. and 51° 45' N. 01° 41' East. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2135/15 to C.in C. Nore).
Firth of Forth.	Request permission for 3rd M.R.F. to attempt recovery of suspected Magnetic Mine now buoyed near Fidra.
Cromesa Sweep.	My 1137/8/11. Operation completed. (C.in C. Rosyth 2309/15 to Adty.)
S.N.3.	Propose to carry out as follows. (R.A.M.L. 2349/15 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Addressed Admiralty, FROM Bombay Fort W/T.
NR WC18 Cancel WC7.
(More W/T 1236/15).

Enemy Intelligence.

Trischen Island. At 0206/15, 30' W. of Trischen Island, two large ships 30 to 40,000 tons and 15,000 tons steering S.S.E. at about 20 knots. A/C report. (H.Q.B.C.1959/15)

Brittany Coast. At 0506/15 in 49° N. 30 5' W. 2 stationary ships, possibly Cruisers. A/C Report. At 0503/15 in 48° 55' N. 20 50' W. six small M/V's 200 to 300 tons, steering N.W. at 6 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 1959/15).

Ventry Harbour. Received at 0329. M/V of unknown nationality at Ventry Harbour at 0305. (C.in C. W.A. to D.N.I. Recd. 0413/15).

Brest. 4 possibly 5 Destroyers seen to-day. (D.D.I.C. 1711/15) (V.A.S.1836/15).

Unst.)
Fair Isle) Following vessels, not yet identified.
Sumburgh) (A.C.O.S. 1720/15 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FRIDTJOF NANSEN. (Norwegian Fishery Protection Vessel) Struck rock in Driftwood Bay 22 cables 250° from Kier Bluff. (F.O. Iceland 1025/15 to Adty.)

NORTHERN PRINCESS. (Armed Boarding Vessel) On T.R.38, reported fires drawn owing to leaky Boiler Tubes. NORTHERN DUKE now towing her to Reykjavik. ETA. P.M./16. (F.O.C.N.P. 1109/15 to Adty.)

CHESHIRE. On completing fuelling proceed to Belfast to stand by CHESHIRE till further orders. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1139/15 to Tug SALVONIA).

ABERDEEN. Leaking. Require docking on arrival. (ABERDEEN 1200/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

My 1200. Am returning to Liverpool. Leak apparently more extensive and has flooded lower central store. Ship jarring badly against swamping sea and swell on westerly courses. Assistance not required. (ABERDEEN 1715/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

FISHPOOL. BROKE's 1203. Am returning to FISHPOOL who is apparently undamaged below Main Deck in 55° 25' N. 16° 10' W. (GARDENIA 1253/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

FAME. My 2235/14. Sustained further bottom damage during yesterday's attempt to refloat. Repairs are now in hand and should be completed a.m. tomorrow Saturday. If weather conditions are favourable intend to attempt to refloat ship on afternoon tide tomorrow. Position is generally hopeful. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1321/15 to Adty.)

DUNGENESS. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth requests Salvage Officer be sent to DUNGENESS, beached abreast Haisborough Light House.

AUSTRALIA. Pronounced vibration from shafts causing concern. Further high speed or heavy weather may damage shafts. (AUSTRALIA 0054/15, 1744/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

F.N. F.S.	Anticipated movements to 1200/16, of F.N. 34, F.N.35, F.S.35, F.S.36 (C.in C. Nore 1200/15)
E.N.25.	2 Blenheims to escort from about 0600 until 0900. Kites to be close-hauled between these times. (C.in C. Rosyth 0044/15, to HASTINGS, JASON, CURACOA and trawlers)
H.G.46.	WANDERER, WARWICK, WILD SWAN and CLARE to execution of your 1220/14. (WANDERER to C.in C. W.A., 0030/15) If not in company with FISHPOOL, proceed to join Convoy H.G. 46 in accordance my 1220/14. (C.in C. W.A. to GARDENIA, 0629/15).
S.L.53.	ARABIS and LA MALOUINE to meet S.L.53 Slow reported by CAMITO (position) (C.in C. W.A. 1109/15 to BROKE)
C.W.17.	Intend to sail from Southend 1000/17. Escort FERNIE, CLEVELAND, 3 A/S trawlers, 5 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.B. vessels, 6 M.L's (C.in C. Nore, 1542/15).
H.N.39(O)	To sail 1500/15. Escort, trawler DRANCEY. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1152/15)
B.H.X.86, TASSO	My 1032/9 (parting of ships from Convoy B.H.X. 86) Matter investigated on return of TASSO to Botwood. No further action considered necessary. (C.in C. A.W.I., 2018/15).
H.X.84. (attacked by raider 5/11).	No news received of TREWELLARD, 5201 tons, FRESNO CITY, 4955 tons, and KENBANE HEAD, 5225 tons. Presumed they have been sunk. Swedish VINGALAND, 2374 tons, bombed and abandoned on 8/11 after Convoy had scattered, is now presumed to have sunk. MAIDAN, 7908 tons, is still unaccounted for. (D.S. 437). Of 38 ships in the Convoy, 30 were announced as safe in Admty. communiques of 12/11 and 13/11. It has now been established that 2 more are safe, SAN DEMETRIO and MORZKA WOLA. So far as can be ascertained, 4 ships of the Convoy only, of total tonnage 25,453, were sunk by the raider. One other ship of 7,900 tons is, however, still unaccounted for. (Press Communique, Admty., 15/11) (D.O.R. 15/11). 65 survivors of JERVIS BAY were picked up by Swedish STUREHOLM, 4575 tons, which was a member of the Convoy. (D.S., 438).

/B.H.X.89
H.X.89
S.H.X.89. .....

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

B.H.X.89.
H.X.89.
S.H.X.89.

B.H.X.89, H.X.89 and S.H.X.89 are not to sail until further orders and if B.H.X. has sailed to be recalled. Policy signal follows. (Admiralty, 1640/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S.)

W.N., E.N. convoys.

My 2259/18/10. Owing to shortage of escorts decided to run W.N. and E.N. convoys 2 days out of 4 (details) Start 19/11. (Admiralty, 1741/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B. 247.

In order to avoid changing convoy numbers and sequences request O.B.247 be cancelled and that it be confirmed O.G.46 and O.B.248 (S) be sailed as programme. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1107/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N. 26.

Route instructions. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2315/15 to H.Q.F.C.)

Routes.

Following instructions supersede previous instructions for independent routeing of merchant vessels from S. Atlantic ports to Northern Approaches of U.K. (C.in C. S.A. to S.O.I's Freetown and Capetown, for N.C.S.O's, 1007 M/15).

For N.C.S.O's. Until further notice all merchant ships of 13 knots and over bound to or from the U.K. are to be routed so as to pass to the northward of position 56° North 20° West and are to be sailed independently.
Ships proceeding independently to U.K. from North America and West Indies are to be routed North of Rockall.
It is essential that routes should be widely dispersed and that no focal points are established. Admiralty Message 1255/9 is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1157/15).

Troop Convoys.
W.S.4 B.

Intend sailing Liverpool Section W.S.4 B escorted by BATH, ST. MARY'S, and ST. ALBANS, 1330/17 to R.V. with Clyde Section as in C.in C. W.A. 1331/14. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2120/15).
Request you sail BATH and ST. MARY'S to Liverpool for escort of W.S.4 B.
(R.A.M.L. to WESTERN ISLES, 2249/15).
Revised escort arrangements for W.S.4A (12 knots) left U.K. 1/11, and W.S.4B (17 knots) leaving U.K. 17/11. (D.O.D.(F) 2211/15 to C.in C. S.A., E.I., and Med.)

/ Greek Shipping ....

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Greek Shipping. To be provided with degaussing and defensive equipment under same conditions as for ships of other Allied nations. (D.T.D. 1844/15).

BERA
SVEADROTT
CASTOR } Swedish tankers. Re safe conduct to Gothenburg. (N.A. Stockholm, 1231/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept; from Casablanca.
MASSILIA left for an unknown destination with French troops and ammunition.
VILLE D'ALGER has been ordered to prepare for sea. KATIOLA arrived on 10/11 or 11/11 from Bordeaux and her ultimate destination is believed to be a South American port. 2 French destroyers of AUDACIEUX Class have left for Toulon. Bizerta is understood to be sheltering 5 or 6 submarines which have left in the last few days.
On 11/11 PRIMAGUET and JULES VERNE sailed the former in a southerly direction and latter for Bizerta. From Dakar. MARAKESH and MIN arrived on 9/11 with native troops, a contingent of Spahis and munitions.
CROIX sailed on 11/11 for Casablanca.
(N.A. Washington, 1046/15)

Your 1863/12. Intended CUBA shall be brought U.K. provided arrangements can be made to repatriate pro Vichy elements and that crew can be provided for her from Freetown to U.K. CUBA should be detained pending instructions.
Part II, financial terms for personnel.
(1 S.L. to C.in C. S.A., 1325/15).

Liberation of Gabon.

Capt. De Fregate D'Argennlieu to Admiral Muselier.
Brief summary of operation.
1 - Troops in convoy escorted by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, DOMINE, HOUDUCE, proceed to Mondah.
2 - SAVORGNA DE BRAZZA and DOMINE patrolled off Libreville so as not to allow Vichy ships to co-operate in defence of town.
3 - Have signalled BOUGAINVILLE to surrender she refused.
4 - Manoeuvred so as to force entrance from the North with DOMINE sweeping up. BOUGAINVILLE closed distance and opened fire first repeating first, SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA retaliated vigorously alone and put opponent out of action.
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA suffered no casualties.
5 - Have taken advantage of success by

/ summing up ..

MOST SECRET.

15 ~~10~~.11.1940.
Fri Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French (Contd.)

summing up military authorities to surrender town. Agreement reached, have sent message to troops to case firing.
6 - On 13/11 and 14/11 demonstrations off Port Gentil was followed by surrender of rest of Gabon without further engagement.
7.- Casualties in BOUGAINVILLE slight.
8 - All personnel gave me entire satisfaction.
(SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 1400/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Policy.

Following is the policy of H.M.G. re Vichy French ships and should be followed in so far as it does not interfere with your object.
Warships to be reported. If they appear to be proceeding to an enemy occupied port or to any port in French Equatorial Africa now held by Free French they are to be warned thiscannot be permitted and that, if necessary, force will be used to prevent it. If sufficient force is not available, they are to be shadowed. In case of RICHELIEU and JEAN BART, H.M.G. have decided that they are not to be allowed to proceed into the Mediterranean or German occupied ports, and Vichy Government have been so informed. If met, endeavour is to be made to persuade them to return to Dakar or Casablanca.
In the event of their refusal and if you are sufficiently superior force they are to be warned that you have instructions to use force, if necessary, but that it is hoped this may be avoided.
Submarines are to be dealt with in accordance with Admty. 2033/28/8, 2306/14/9 and 1509/8/10.
Unescorted merchant vessels, unless definitely established to be under Free French control or proceeding between Free French ports, are to be sent in for examination, action being reported.
Merchant vessels escorted by warships are not to be interfered with.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2111/15 to C.S.18).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

F.O. Force H in RENOWN, with ARGUS, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and DESPATCH, and 8 destroyers, left Gibraltar at 0415 for Central Mediterranean, (D.O.R. 16/11).

Operation White. F.O. Force H, 2130/14. Comply with para.1 so as to arrive Gibraltar as soon as possible. Report E.T.A. (A.C.N.S.(F), 1057/15 to NEWCASTLE, amended by 1232/15)

Your 1828/15. Understood. S.O. Force H 2130/14 is being passed to you. (F.O.C. N.A., 2150/15 to NEWCASTLE)

UTMOST
URSULA
UPRIGHT
TRIUMPH

My 1704/11 and Admiralty 1748/14. S/M situation UTMOST in dock, URSULA further defects, completion date not yet known, UPRIGHT available and at short notice, TRIUMPH expected 16/11. Pending instructions from C.in C. Med. intend to keep UPRIGHT in harbour at short notice and not to establish patrol to eastwards of Gibraltar. (F.O.C. N.A., 1232/15 to Admiralty).

URSULA. Details of defects. (A.S. Gibraltar, 1249/15).

TRIUMPH. Route. KINGSTON TURQUOISE to escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C. N.A. to ROCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, 1648/15)

Sunderland Patrols. Ref. A.797. 15/11. One Sunderland rendezvous with ARK ROYAL in position 38° 10' N. 3° 20' E. at 1700 hours one minus one 16/11 to drop photos. Two Sunderlands will patrol five miles North of Galita Island commencing 0630 hours K.D. one minus one 17/11 to escort Hurricanes. Sunderland T9048 will leave Gibraltar to arrive off Galita Island at 0530 hours zone minus one 17/11 to escort Hurricanes.
Cancel all after E.T.D. in my A.242 15/11.
(200 Group, 1700/15 to H.Q., Mediterranean.)

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE
CUMBERLAND
DEVONSHIRE
SHROPSHIRE
SOUTHAMPTON
CORNWALL.

Admiralty 2326/10/10. Future movements (after escort of W.S.4B). Admiralty will issue R/V instructions to DEVONSHIRE who is to be sailed in accordance with A.T. 0036/14 for a position W. of the Azores. (A.C.N.S.(F), 2211/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUMBERLAND.

Your 1129 B/14. CUMBERLAND to be sailed from Simonstown p.m./17 for 20° 00' S., 02° 00' W., thence to St. Helena. From St. Helena CUMBERLAND to proceed to patrol in I.35 and to arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C. S.A., 1737/15, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DURMITOR.

C.in C. E.I., 0650/14. DURMITOR did not call at any Union port. Nothing known of cargo loaded at Lourenco Marques. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1433/15, to C.in C. E.I.)

NEPTUNE.

R.A. 1 C.S. transferred his flag today from DEVONSHIRE to NEPTUNE at Lagos. (D.O.N. 16/11).

Free French Appts.

General de Gaulle has announced following appointments
(1) General de Larminat to be High Commissioner French Africa.
(2) M. Eboue late of ? Tnhad to be Governor General French Equatorial Africa.
(3) M. Cournarie to be Governor French Cameroons in place of Colonel Leclerc
(4) Colonel Parent to be Governor of Gabon.
M. Cournarie, previously Adminstrator in French Cameroons, was made Secretary General by Larminat. His new appointment will not be universally popular.
It is reported Colonel Leclerc will become O.C. Free French Troops in Africa.
(H.C.S.O. Duala, 1517/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Suspicious Ship.

Master HUNTINGDON reports sighting 1035 G.M.T. 7/11 in 032° 19' S. 058° 10' E. strange ship steering East by North speed 9 knots distance 6 miles Ship appeared to attempt to close and then crossed HUNTINGDON track astern maintaining her course.
Description. With exception of stem description fits ship described by C.in C. East Indies 06002/21 and may be "heading off" ship referred to in his 1440/30/9. Ship cannot be identified here. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1615/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Sunderland Escorts. Your A.241 14/11. Agree 1 Sunderland rendezvous with ARK ROYAL in position 38° 10' N. 3° 20' E. at 1700 hours 1 minus 1 16/11 to drop photos. 2 Sunderlands will also patrol 5 miles North of Galita Island commencing 0330 hours 1 minus 1 on 17/11 to escort Hurricanes. Please delay departure of Sunderland T.9048. which arrives Gibraltar A.M./15/11 so that it arrives off Galita Island at 0830 hours 1 minus 1 17/11 to act as 1 of escorting flying boats. (H.Q. Med. 0845/15 to 201 Group).

Alexandria Raids. Night of 14/11. First 1900 to 1930, 1 a/c, 3 bombs; second, 2300 to 2315, 1 a/c 6 bombs; third, 0000 to 0030, 1 a/c 4 bombs; fourth 0120 to 0430, 3 a/c 6 bombs. Fourth raid destroyed a wooden hut killing a few Egyptians and wounding 9. No other damage or casualties throughout night. (R.A. Alexandria, 0910/15).

M.T.B's. Could use M.T.B's with great advantage from Crete or Greece if available. Base organisation ashore or afloat would be needed. (C.in C. Med., 1225/15 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE, Operation Collar. Admty. 1633/8. Appears unnecessary NEWCASTLE should remain at Malta until Operation Collar. Suggest NEWCASTLE be sailed independently for Gibraltar by night as soon as convenient after unloading. NEWCASTLE should not fuel at Malta if can be avoided, as stocks are difficult to maintain. (C.in C. Med., 1415/15).

Operation B.3. Orders to OSIRIS and ROVER. (Capt. S.1, 1500/15).

DECOY Bombed. DECOY hit by bomb during air raid Alexandria 1730/13. 2 officers 9 ratings killed. Temporary repairs in hand locally to complete in about 7 days, when ship will proceed to Malta for permanent repairs. (C.in C. Med., 1531/15).

Greek Troop Convoys. N.A. Athens 1715/15 see Mediterranean Volume.

Greek Mission. British Minister Athens 1148/15 to F.O. Consier this is a most inopportune moment for Rear-Adm. Turle to leave Athens. (C.in C. Med., 2007/15)

/ Taranto Photos. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Taranto Photos. Taken 12/11 and 14/11 being forwarded. (N.O.I.C. Malta to Admty. 2010/15).

VALIANT. Admty. 2000/18/10. Capt. C.E. Morgan assumed command p.m./14. (C.in C. Med., 1416/15).

Motor Yachts. Your 1835/8. Description of M.V's. How many would you require and what is degree of priority? (D.S.V.P. to C.in C. Med., 1839/15).

Taranto Attack. My 1121/13. Re attack on Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour. Communique has been issued with following addition "During course of these operations 8 enemy aircraft were shot down". (C.in C. Med., 1345/15 to Admty.)

Convoy A.N.7. Sailing telegram. Escort ILEX. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1814/15).

R.A.F. Operations. M.E. Operational Summary No. 158 up to 1200/15. Para. 1 Greece. Day 13/11. 2 Blenheims bombed Valona harbour destroying a jetty and sinking a barge. Accurate A.A. fire experienced. 1 large 12 medium ships and 30 barges observed in harbour and 2 Squadrons of fighters and 1 of S.79's on aerodrome. Para.2. Egypt. Day 14/11. A Sunderland reconnoitred southern Ionian Sea for enemy surface and submarine craft. Night 14/15 Nov. Blenheims of 55 and 113 Squadrons bombed Tummar, Bardia, Tobruk and Bomba starting a fire at Bomba. All aircraft returned safely. During night single enemy aircraft made 6 attacks on Alexandria bombs falling on shore in Lake Maryat and in sea. No damage or casualties reported. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1147/15).

Enemy Units. My 1817. Have arrange a visit to Naples as well as Sicilian ports for 16/11. The cruisers in Messina are probably 8 inch gun and are surrounded by torpedo nets. (V.A. Malta, 1903/15).

Enemy Units, Air Recon. Your 2247/14. As undamaged Italian battleships and 8 inch cruisers had left Taranto yesterday 14/11 request you take steps to locate them by investigating bases within range of your aircraft. Flying boat reconnaissance already arranged from Suda Bay for 16/11 17/11 18/11 should be adequate for security of operation outlined in my 1715/14. Object should be, firstly, Security of operation 'WHITE'. Secondly, Location of Italian battle fleet and 8 inch cruisers. (C.in C. Med., 2011/15, to V.A. Malta.)

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

DURBAR. To sail from Nancowry at 0330Z/16/11 and proceed at 15 knots to (?004°) 30' N., 092° 00' E. and then patrolling at 12 knots between that position and 003° 00'N., 038° 00' E. (C.in C. E.I., 1804 Z/15 to Force V).

QUEEN MARY. Experience has shown that handling of this ship at Bombay is unsatisfactory (reasons). Suggesting Trincomalee instead. (S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) 0866Z/15 to D. of S.T.)

Air Report. Summary No. 156. No naval items. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1719/15).

W.C.7 cancelled. Following received on F.X.:- Addressed Admty., from Bombay Fort W/T. N.R. W.C.18, cancel W.C.7. (Nore W/T, 1236/15).

Air Report. Operational Summary 158. Night 12-13/11. 2 Wellesleys bombed fuel depot Gura setting fire to 4 buildings. Day 14/11. Reconnaissance made of Dahlak Archipelago. Kenya, 12/11. S.A.A.F. reconnoitred Geldeidia and made coastal patrol off Dar-es-Salaam. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/15)

America and West Indies.

German Ships. Tampico. My 1302/10. Navy Dept. informs me that 4 German ships at Tampico reported to have steam up and ready to sail. (N.A. Washington, 2115/15).

China.

Shipping Losses. Following ships must be presumed to have fallen into enemy hands. There is no evidence that they have been sunk and possibility of meeting them at sea cannot be excluded.
CITY OF BAGDAD, TIRRANNA, TALLEYRAND, PILEPJELL, KING CITY, NOTOU, ATHELKING, BENAVON, BENARTY, NORDVARD, COMMISSAIRE RAMEL, STORSTAD, RINGWOOD, DUMITOR, AUTOMEDON, OLE JACOB.
Wreckage has been recovered from following ships which may therefore be presumed sunk: KEMMENDINE, TURAKINA, BRITISH COMMANDER. (Capt. O.S.Singapore 0801Z/15)

/ Japanese Policy. ...

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Continued)

Japanese Policy. Interview of an American correspondent with Vice-Adm. Shimada on coming Japanese move into South Indo-China to gain bases at Saigon and Camranh against the day they are at war with G.B. (S.O.I. Shanghai, 07392/15, to C.in C. China).

Australia.

Troop Transports. ADELAIDE escorting transports ORION, BATORY left Sydney 1400 Z/14 for R.V. Western Bass Strait proceeding to South of Tasmania. (A.C.N.B., 0724 Z/15)
STRATHEDEN left Melbourne 1800 Z/14 for Adelaide. (A.C.N.B. 0512Z/15)
QUEEN MARY arrived Fremantle 0606Z/15. (A.C.N.B. 1341Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Tampico.

Navy Dept. report (see America and West Indies).

RHEIN
IDARWALD
ORINOCO
PHRYGIA

RHEIN and IDARWALD left Tampico tonight. Other 2 (ORINOCO and PHRYGIA) ready to leave also. Jamaica advised by R.O., Tampico. (Consul-Gen., Mexico City, no T.O.O./15, recd. 0945/16).

NORBURG)
CORDELIA)
LARISSA)

Left in ballast for Russia. (Macrae, Galatz, 1136/15)

NORDERNEY

At Para, Brazil, has been stopped receiving more than 250 tons coal by Captain of the Port, with concurrence of Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff. Captain of the Port considers the ship interned. (D.S. 438).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FULGOR.

Tanker, believed to have slipped out of Cadiz and to be masquerading as Spanish CAMPO AMOR. (D.S. 437)

LAVORO)
OLTENIA)

Tankers, which scuttled themselves off Gibraltar in Spanish teeritorial waters on 10/6, have been refloated and towed into Algeciras. Both said to be flying Spanish flag and to have been bought by Spain from Italy. (D.S. 437)

LEMM

My 2139/10/6. Portland, Oregon, reports (A.1) that LEMM now lying Portland has on board 1036 tons fuel. Her daily consumption is 23 tons at 14 knots. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1643/15)

TORCELLO

Tanker, arrived from Batoum with cargo of petroleum 1210/15 (Varna 1210/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

GONCALO VELHO. (attacked 14/11) — Portuguese, 1595 tons, from Reykjavik to Oporto with cod fish, reported on arriving Leixoes she had been attacked and damaged by a German S/M on 14/11. The U-boat commander afterwards apologised.

KOHINUR HAVBOR — British, 5168 tons. CITY OF PITTSBURG arrived Freetown 19/11 with 35 survivors from KOHINUR torpedoed in 04.24' N., 13.46' W. at 1430/15. Survivors report Norwegian tanker torpedoed same position. This is probably HAVBOR (7614 tons). Chief Officer identified S/M from silhouette identification book as Italian. Crew in shorts and berets looked like Italian or French seen from 40 ft. This appears another s/m to that reported in my 1909 N/19. (C.in C. S.A., 2129 N/19, to Admty.) My 2129. Only European survivors are first mate, chief engineer, 4th engineer (names). (C.in C. S.A., 2229 N/19).

Submarines Reported.

0010. — Italian U/B probably entering Gironde. (D.S. 437).

1206. — 57° to 58° N., 17° to 19° W., position indefinite (D.S. 438).

Before 2030. — 53.13 N., 26.29 W., periscope reported by CHITRAL and graded C.3 by her. (D.S.438).

2253. — Northwards of Shetlands, position indefinite. (D.S. 438).

1308. — D.F. unreliable fix 56° N. 12° W. (H.Q.C.C., 1700/15).

Submarines Attacked.

Following from ELSE RYKENS:-
Consider target is s/m. Result of d/c attack unknown. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0129/15). Initial A/S contact 0025 bearing 280° 3000 yards from Aldeburgh Light. One d/c expended, contact lost and found, searched area without any result. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0235/15). ELSE RYKENS reports suspected s/m vicinity of position Z at 0129/15. (C.in C. Nore, 0215/15, to CAMPBELL, CATTISTOCK). My 0129/15. Target was thought non-sub. WIDGEON and SHEARWATER searching area before F.N.35 passes. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1610/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

Saturday.
16.11.40.

HOME COMMANDS.

MARSHALL
SOULT.

Asking approval to allocate her as Trawler base ship. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1145/16).

Portsmouth Destroyer Striking Force.

Reference A.T. 1618/14 and C.in C. Portsmouth 2243/5/10. Present allocation of four destroyers to Portsmouth when one is away refitting and one is boiler cleaning does not allow of two destroyers being kept at immediate notice every night for unforeseen commitments.

I have been using a French T.B. as second destroyer in order to give one the necessary stand off. Request confirmation that BOREAS due to complete 22/11 will be rejoining 1st D.F. If not, I would be grateful if one V class could join flotilla in order to maintain essential emergency striking force. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1923/16).

Escort of merchant ship groups.

In view of A.T. 1618/14 will it be possible for armed trawlers from your command to escort the merchant ship groups from and to Dartmouth after the French T.B's have sailed from Portsmouth. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2018/16 to C.in C.W.A).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Deluge at 1130/16. (D.C.1152/16)
At 2330/16 (D.C.2345/16).

Movements.

Nore.

Dispositions night 16/17. (C.in C. Nore 0800/16).

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN.

Sailed Londonderry to Java. Itinerary. Instructions. Re Adty. 2322/25. (D.O.D.(F) 1228/16 to C.in C. W.A.etc.)

Rosyth.

Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth 1516/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Adty. 2055/11. BONAVENTURE has been in company with CHITRAL since p.m./14 but destroyers mentioned BS 3 1142/13 have not been sighted. Continuous gales have been experienced and consider chances of finding any survivors is now negligible. BONAVENTURE leaves patrol tomorrow Sunday. Much minor damage has been caused by the weather. Suggest proceeding to a dockyard port on return to replace boats, effect repairs and simultaneously clean two boilers. Estimated time required 3 or 4 days. (BONAVENTURE 1111/16).

Dover Shelled.

Enemy Coastal batteries near Calais fired about ten rounds between 0630 and 0830 today. Four shells fell near Siege Battery. Remainder presumably fired at Eastbound convoy while in the Downs fell astern and short.
(V.A. Dover 1803/16).

Jan Mayon.

My 1214/15 as expedition may be carrying stores for a seaplane base and great importance is attached to its capture NAIAD is to continue to operate Jan Mayon Island for present. Hope to sail AURORA from Scapa to relieve NAIAD about 18/11. REPULSE is to return to Scapa with destroyer screen as in my 1214/15 November passing south of North Rona. Oiler MONTENOL is in Skaale Fiord Faroes.
(C.in C. H.F. 2246/16).

Submarines.

O.22.

Orders to leave patrol. (Capt: (S) 9 1401/16).

Movements.

Informatory signal to submarines Area A.
(Capt: (S) 9 1425/16).

Positions and Movements.

0800/17 (V.A.S. 1656/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Q.F.Decoy Sites.

for Worthy Down, Yeovilton, Arbroath, Crail. Concurrence of A.A. Defence Authorities to be obtained. (D. of L.D. 1309/16 for R.A.N.A.S.)

Starches.

Assessments. (C.in C. Rosyth 1740/16, 1914/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. EMPIRE WIND. (Bombed 13/11).

Following survivors of EMPIRE WIND. 10 Officers, 31 men landed Greenock 16.11.40. by ARROW. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1241/16).

Convoy "Child".

1 A/C shadowing Convoy CHILD 55° 58' N., 12° 17'W. (Convoy Guard N.T.O.O. Rcd. 0928).

SHERBROOKE Attacked.

0933/16 five miles N.W. of Sunk SHERBROOKE bombed. (SHERBROOKE 0935/16) N. Foreland Radio T.O.R. 1043/16).

8 miles South East Orfordness SHERBROOKE bombed 1241/16. (N.Foreland Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1353/16)

AAAA Disabled require immediate assistance SHERBROOKE, position 4 miles North of Sunk. (N.Foreland W/T 1337/16).

S.S. SHERBROOKE.
KENIA.
S.S. GASLIGHT.
VEGA.
SWIN L.VESSEL.
QUEEN EMPRESS.

Summary of air attacks on shipping in Thames Estuary and Harwich areas today.
0935 S.S. SHERBORNE in F.S.35 bombed 5 miles NW of Sunk Lt. Vessel. Engines disabled casualties unknown. Tug KENIA has been sent from Harwich.
1313 S.S. GASLIGHT bombed near S.W. Swin Lt. Vessel no damage.
1404 VEGA in tow of St. MELLONS attacked off Harwich no further details reported.
1407 N.E. Swin Light Vessel shelled by aircraft several hits above waterline no casualties.
1447 H.M.S. QUEEN EMPRESS bombed 2 miles 040° from ORFORDNESS. No damage.
(C.in C. Nore 1737/16).

Departures Tug R W WHEELDON and PRIZEMAN at 0810 to assist VEGA.
(F.O. Humber 0850/17).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy "BOSOM".

1 aircraft shadowing convoy BOSOM 51° 20'N., 1° 32'E. (FERNIE 1000/16).

LXEW.

S.O.S. de LXEW attacked off Lowestoft. (Scapa Base Ship 1149/16).

S.O.S. Re LXEW Resume normal working but please keep look out for further developments 1150/16 de GKU. (N.T.O.O. Recd. 1336/16).

S.S. GASLIGHT.

AAAA GASLIGHT bombed off South West Swin. (North Foreland 1313/16).

Tanker.

Following received at 1405 G.M.T. from St. Mellons to N.O.I.C. Harwich observed bombs dropped near Tanker off Shipwash. Cannot see any damage. (N.Foreland Radio 1403/16).

Convoy "SECURE".

Convoy SECURE. Fighters have been despatched to your assistance. (Nore W/T 1424/16).

Convoy BOOTY.

Emergency air Attack. Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy BOOTY. My position 51° 43'N., 1° 24'E (WOOLSTON 1455/16).

N.O.i/c Stornoway reports: Enemy aircraft probably one in number made reconnaissance over Northern most part of Lewis today between 1230 and 1330. Machine gun fire was directed against Butt of Lewis Lighthouse Station and R.A.F. Station at Melbost. No casualties. Fighter station at Wick was informed by R.A.F. 1329/16 ends. HAZARD also reports one hostile aircraft at 1345 000 degs. Cape Wrath 6 miles. Aircraft fired bunch of about 9 Red Stars then flashed letter M afterwards disappearing on westerly course. (A.C.O.S. 1648/16).

Portsmouth.

At 2107 3 H.E. bombs dropped in Haslar Creek no apparent damage 3 H.E. in Portsmouth slight damage 1 or more in Gosport 3 or 4 houses demolished. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2342/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

M/S Operations.

My 1858/15 and 2135/15 both operations cancelled on account of weather.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0259/16).

Blyth.

Port of Blyth closed. Mine self exploded in channel. Expect to reopen daylight if weather conditions permit of pilot boarding.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 0315/16).

My 0315 / Blyth open. Restrictions in my 1514/15 still in force.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 1021/16).

One ground magnetic mine detonated LL 0934/16. 2.3 cables Blyth E.Pier.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1050/16).

Operation S.N.3.

R.A.M.L. 2249/15. Sailed BATH and (?) ST. MARY for Liverpool (?) 1800/16.
(WESTERN ISLES 0445/16)

R.A.M.L. 2349/15.
It is not desired to issue a QZX message for operation S.N.3 until lay is completed.

(2) If you concur and consider it necessary to warn individual ships request you will do so.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1144/16 to C.in C. H.F.)

#

Your 2349/15. Proposals for Operation S.N.3. Concur. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1145/16 to R.A.M.C.)
Your 1144/16. Concur.
(C.in C. H.F. 1915/15 to Adty).

Explosions.

FOLKESTONE reports at least 15 underwater explosions resembling Mines detonating were heard on 12/11 between 0600 (055° 45' N., 009° 17' W) and Noon (055° 47' N.,008° 20'W.) Others were heard both before and after these times. Four splashes were seen to Southward accompanying explosion.
(C.in C. W.A. 0910/16).

S.S. DAGENHAM. Damaged.

S.S. DAGENHAM Commodore's ship in convoy F.S. 35 damaged by underwater explosion in position 4 cables 065° from Mouse L.V. at 1335 today. Ship now beached in position 6 cables 180° from East Cant Buoy. (C.in C. Nore 1707/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

MARCELLE (mined 10/11)

Belgian trawler MARCELLE employed as Balloon Barrage trawler was mined on 10/11. 5 of Belgian crew were picked up, all injured. 1 has since died. None missing. 1 of Belgian crew was not on board at the time. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1440/16).

Swansea.

Mines exploded by L.L. 236° 2.2 miles from Flatholm Light (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1445/16).

Summary of explosions etc. in Thames Estuary on night of 15/16.

1820 Explosion similar to mine explosion seen in region of East Oaze buoy.

2356 Two explosions similar to those caused prematurely by mines falling on the water in region of East Spaniard Buoy.

At 1830 Parachute mine seen to fall on bearing 078 degs. from near South Gate of Boom at range estimated to be three miles.

At 1955 Plane circling over Medway area dropped seven groups of four red lights and finished by firing one green light when leaving to the Eastward.

At 2345 A plane flying to the Eastward over the outer estuary fired two groups of four red lights. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1717/16)

St. Ann's Head.

Two ground mines self detonated 095° St. Ann's Head Light 7.8 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1816/16).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

0020 r.c. of Brest Harbour five destroyers moored alongside, 2 anchored. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1000/16).

Re intelligence 14/11.

Your 1850/14 telling me of the possibility of a German Naval Unit leaving the Bergen area for the Skaggerak that evening bore no indication that this information had been communicated to A.C.O.S., C.in C. Rosyth, or A.O.C.-in-C. C.C. Request this may be done in future, that consideration may be given to an immediate air reconnaissance to be followed by the despatch of Air Striking Forces if a target is located. The information was received too late to allow of the enemy being intercepted by surface forces. (C.in C. H.F. 1031/16 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ARSENAL
BURZA
SUPERMAN
ARROW

BURZA reported in collision with A/S Trawler ARSENAL at 0745, 4 miles South of Toward. ARROW and Tug SUPERMAN are standing by. (F.O. Greenock 0830/16).

My 0830. ARSENAL sank and exploded causing machinery damage in SUPERMAN. BURZA returning to Greenock with considerable damage to bow. No casualties. (F.O. Greenock, 1027/16)

ARROW.

ARROW reports ship out of action operationally for some weeks. Machinery damaged by depth charge explosions following sinking of ARSENAL. Only destroyer in 3rd Group now available AMBUSCADE. Group required 19/11 for 0646. (D. 11 1211/16).

Rescue tug SUPERMAN damaged in collision today Saturday request owners or agents may be advised. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1234/16).

?

Following from D.O. Walton. My 1444 reference to vessel apparently on sand at 1335 No. 89 LV reports 3 tugs and a lifeboat attending on her. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1610/16).

S.S. ANDONI

ANDONI engine failure taken in tow position, course and speed 054° 50' 013° 43' 077° 5½ CLARE in company. CLEMATIS 1800/16).

Proceed with despatch to assistance of S.S. ANDONI in tow CLEMATIS in position 054° 50' N. 012° 43' W. today course 077° speed five and half knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2321/16 to ENGLISHMAN).

Sailed rescue tug ENGLISHMAN in accordance with my 2321/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0015/17).

FAME.

B.R. 3268 FAME today's attempt unsuccessful. Further repairs are being carried out aft and additional pumps are being placed. A further attempt will be made tomorrow Sunday weather permitting. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1823/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

E.N. 27. Additional escort GLEANER. Code word Usage. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1027/16).

F.N.36. CATTISTOCK to reinforce escort, to act under orders of LOWESTOFT. (C.in C. Nore 2140/16)

W.N.40. S/M L.23 from Scapa to Dundee. (A.C.O.S. 1141/16) Your 1141/16. Request you will inform R.A.F. and F.A.A. authorities in accordance F.S.A.3 para. 6. (C.in C. W.A. 2029/16)

S.L. 53. U/B may be following (C.in C. W.A., 1830/16 to SALADIN, BROKE, etc.)
GERANIUM to proceed with Liverpool portion, ST. APPOLLO with Oban portion. Both ships to await orders at destination. (C.in C. W.A., 1640/16).

S.C., H.X., O.B. Adty. 1640/15. Normal sailings of S.C., H.X. and O.B. convoys are to be resumed. O.B. 247 is cancelled. Ships from B.H.X.89 are to join B.H.X.90. (V.C.N.S. 1828/16).

O.C.46
O.B. 248(S) Your 1107/15. Confirmed as to these convoys (C.in C. W.A. 1911/16 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool).

B.H.X.90. Details. Motor boats in EMPIRE PUMA and RAJAHSTAN, aeroplanes in MODAVIA. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1450/16, 1452/16)

HENRI MORY. Returned from S.C.11, engine trouble (N.C.S.O., Sydney, C.B. 1521/16)

CORDELIA. Returned from B.H.X. 84, scattered. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.V., 1521/16).

Escort Groups. Order of sailing (C.in C. W.A., 2130/16)

Routes compromised. Your 2001/16. Request for verification from W.R. Following is repetition of my 1744/14. From N.C.S.O. Lisbon. Wireless Operator of Greek ship ANTONIOS CHANDRIS, sunk by German raider, reports that (1) instructions for rejoining convoy by D.F. (2) Wireless logs previous to February 1940 showing positions of several convoy routes between Canada and U.K. have fallen into hands of enemy. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 0212/16)

A/A Guns and Zigzagging For N.C.S.O's. Masters of merchant vessels armed with A.A. guns are to be instructed that in the event of air attack frequent zig-zagging may hamper efficiency of A.A. fire and has no great effect on the enemy's bombing accuracy. Ships under attack should however use their helm to assist in keeping their A.A. armament bearing. (D.T.D.1942/16).

/ Employment of sloops for S.C. convoys. .....

MOST SECRET.

16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Employment of sloops for S.C. convoys. — In view of damage in heavy weather and small value of one sloop as ocean escort of S.C. convoys, I propose discontinuing use of sloops on this service and using all sloops on O.G. and H.G. escorts, where reinforcement is important. (C.in C. W.A. 2030/16).

Troop Convoys. W.S.4 B. NORFOLK. CAIRO. — In view of AUSTRALIA'S 0834 and 1744/15, propose NORFOLK replace her in ocean escort of convoy W.S.4 B to Freetown. After calling Scapa for essential stores 17/11 NORFOLK can R.V. with convoy in position 270° Oversay Light six miles at 0830/18. (C.in C. H.F., 1143/16). Your 1143. Request you will sail NORFOLK accordingly. (D.O.D.(H), 1627/16). My 1103/14 and 2211/15. For AUSTRALIA read NORFOLK. (D.O.D. (H), 1818/16) Orders to NORFOLK. (C.in C. H.F., 2314/16) Request you will detach CAIRO to R.V. (Oversay Light) at 0830/18 with Convoy W.S.4 B, EDINBURGH, NORFOLK and ten transports. Route. (C.in C. W.A., 2040/16 to C.S.18).

W.S.4 A, W.S.4 C. — CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE are to act as ocean escorts to W.S.4 A and W.S.4 C, combined. Date of arrival Capetown. (C.in C. S.A., 1133/16).

W.S.4 B. — Admty. 2121/11, para.1. Delete PASTEUR. (D.O.D. (H) 1848/16).

ORDUNA, ADDA, CITY OF CANTERBURY — Date of sailing with Govt. personnel, for Bermuda, Freetown and Bombay respectively. CATHAY to provide ocean escort. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C. W.A., 1311/16).

W.S.3. — Arrived Suez p.m./16. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1812/16).

A/C and U/B attacks, Convoys. — In order that official information of A/C and action taken by escorts and convoy, may be available to C.in C. at earliest moment, Capt. D. of the port concerned is to draw up a collective report of circumstances as soon as escort group returns to harbour. Details (C.in C. W.A. 1620/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Cameroons, NEPTUNE. Admty. 2331/14. Am informed De Gaulle has made many changes in administrative appointments in A.E.F. among others supersession of Leclerc in the Cameroons. De Gaulle himself expected Lagos 18 or 19/11 on way to England. Intend remaining in NEPTUNE at Lagos to see him before I go to Duala to call on the new Governor. (F.O.I.C.S. 1042 A/16)

INDOCHINOIS CUBA Your 1759/14. Elder Dempster have agreed to act as agents and operators for INDO CHINOIS and if necessary for CUBA and will co-operate in finding crews. Request you will inform their local representatives. Elder Dempster will not communicate with them direct but will sent all instructions through Admiralty. (Head of M. 1906/16 to C.in C. S.A.) Details of cargo in CUBA (C.in C. S.A. 2311/16).

VICTORIA. French trawler, due to leave Casablanca for Gibraltar about 20/11 with Brit. merchant seamen stranded in N. Africa. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C. N.A. 1812/16)

North Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE F.O. Force H 2130/14. Intend to sail NEWCASTLE for Malta p.m./17. (F.O.C.N.A. 2045/16).

GERMANIA Probability of leaving Ponta Delgada and of R.V. with ADMIRAL SCHEER. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1920/16) (See German Merchant Ships).

VICTORIA (German guarantee) Your 1332. French N.A. has asked Adty. three times. Guarantee still not given by Armistice Commission. Will go on pressing the matter. (Madrid 2011/16.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ships. NORTHUMBERLAND reported large merchant ship and oil tanker in 05° 28' N., 12° 36' W. at 0600Z/16 behaving suspiciously. Investigate. (C.in C. S.A. 0906/16 to BULOLO). Report cancelled, ships apparently friendly (C.in C. S.A. 1220/16).

DELHI. Since 26/8 DELHI has been at sea 69 days out of 82. Cannot steam at full power due inability to keep pace with leakages and consumption of fresh water. Urgently request 6 days at long notice at Lagos to make good defects with assistance from Nigerian Marine and give some long overdue liberty. (DELHI to C.S.1, 0122/16)

/ QUEEN ELIZABETH .....

MOST SECRET.

16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0825/16).

RIDLEY abandoned. RIDLEY owned by Stephens Sutton Limited Newcastle-on-Tyne was abandoned derelict in position 020° 08' N. 029° 36' W. at 1400 G.M.T. on 9/11 after being gutted by fire resulting from bursting oil fuel tank. All on board saved and brought to Freetown by KERMA. C.Bs handed to me intact. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1131/16)

CUMBERLAND. My 1737/15. CUMBERLAND from St. Helena is to remain in J.36 and rendezvous with KENT and HERMES in 016° S. 004° W. at date and time arranged by N.O. I/C Simonstown. After rendezvous sweep under orders of S.O. to be carried out on route given to KENT and HERMES which follows. CUMBERLAND to leave force so as to arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1335N/16).

Lagos. Examination of possibilities for greater use by H.M. ships. (C.in C. S.A. to Governor, Nigeria, 1737N/16).

CORNWALL
PRETORIA CASTLE CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE are to act as ocean escorts to convoys W.S. 4 (a) and W.S. 4 (c) combined. Speeds are to be adjusted to arrive Capetown (date) (C.in C. S.A. 1133/16).

DUNDAS
KING LUD
HERISLE Overdue shipping my 0935/30 cancel DUNDAS. My 1105/14 KING LUD, HERISLE arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0915Z/16).

CUMBERLAND. Leaves Simonstown 17/11 for J.36. (Movements as in 1335N/16). HERMES and KENT arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C.S.A., to R.A.S.A.D., 2027N/16).

Libreville. Convey to Gen. de Gaulle congratulations on successful operations against Libreville and Gabon. Control of Libreville and Fort Gentil by Free French is of great assistance to naval operations in whole of West African area. (C.in C. S.A., to C.S.1, 1723/16)

MOST SECRET.

16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation Collar. — Admty. 1633/8 to be amended. MANCHESTER and FRANCONIA to proceed at best speed to Gibraltar on reaching latitude of 41°N. Amend time of R.V. (D.O.D.(F) to C.S.18, 1055/16) See Mediterranean Volume.

Dodecanese Islands. — Proposals for operations against. (C.in C. Med., 1429/16) See Mediterranean Volume.

Vichy Policy. — Admty. 0046/9. It was realized H.M.G. would be aware of this denial. The significant point is that the French Government should have apparently made it official to Admiral Godfroy. This fact is likely to have a profound effect on the Admiral if Vichy Cabinet begin to run counter to their word and give ships or ports to the Axis. (C.in C. Med., 1515/16)

A/C Squadrons. — Admty. 1153/7. It was not intended to transfer aircraft but personnel of squadron who have special knowledge of objectives on this station. In view however, of para. (d) I bow to their Lordships decision, but would like to be free to reallocate personnel existing Swordfish squadrons in EAGLE and ILLUSTRIOUS so that the more experienced are retained on the station. (C.in C. Med., 1235/16)

Greek Reports. — Intelligence reports from M.A., Athens, to W.O., 1600/12, 0325/14, 1315/15, and 0229/16, all received from W.O. 0800-0845/17.

RAMILLIES. — Your 1025/13. In view of raider situation, RAMILLIES will be most acceptable addition to our naval strength outside the Mediterranean. Request you endeavour to arrange for transfer of Ramillies from East to West during Operation Collar. (1 S.L., to C.in C., Med., 1500/16).

Air Report. Bardia and Derna Bombed. — Summary No.159 to 1200/16. Reconnaissances, 4 ships 350-ft. long in Benghasi, of which two damaged, and a fifth off harbour. One ship believed cruiser off Benghasi, 12 miles. Total of 186 aircraft, including 16 seaplanes, observed at bases from Benghasi to Gazala. Night 15/11, to 16/11, Blenheims of 55 and 113 Sqdns. bombed Sollum, Bardia, Tobruk, Bomba and Derna, causing violent explosion at Bardia, a fire at Bomba, and hitting barracks at Derna.

Alexandria Raid. — One enemy a/c attacked Alexandria dropping bombs in Lake Maryut ....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Alexandria Raid (contd.) — Lake Maryut and in area south of docks. No service damage or casualties. Believed 13 native casualties with damage to property. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1300/16) Air raid 2005-2040/15. (No naval damage) (R.A. Alexandria 0950/16).

Attack on U/B — 14/11. (C.in C. Med. 1223/16). See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Convoy W.S.3. — Arrived Suez p.m./16. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area, 1812/16).

Air Report, Enemy Intelligence. — Up to 1700 hours 16/11. All times G.M.T. 0800 to 1130 Glenn Martin 431 Flight, recco. North and East Sicilian ports Syracuse, nothing seen. Augusta no shipping 17 seaplanes Straits of Messina 5000 ton M/V Hospital ship marking and 4000 ton M/V. Messina Harbour, 4 destroyers, 3 large and 2 small M/V's and some fleet auxiliaries all moored. Off Messina heading possibly Naples, 3 cruisers and 4 destroyers. Palermo, 3 cruisers just leaving harbour. In harbour 2 large cruisers, several fleet auxiliaries and M/Vs Trapani 4 destroyers and some fleet auxiliaries. 0800 to 1325 Blenheim 431 Flight recco. Corfu Lovkas, Cephalonia, Zante, Strephadia, for enemy naval and air force activities, no shipping soon. 0010 to 1540 Glenn Martin 431 Flight recco. Naples to report on enemy battle fleet movements. Only M/V's in port. 20 miles South of Naples, 1 battleship, 1 cruiser and 4 destroyers proceeding towards Messina 1010 Sunderland 228 Squadron detailed to drop photos on H.M.S. ARK ROYAL aircraft due back 2100. No air activity over Malta today. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/16).

East Indies.

COLOMBO. — My 0819/14, not to Admty, and my 1448/14. COLOMBO delayed, adverse currents. She will reconnoitre Mogadishu p.m. (C.in C. E.I., 0534Z/16).

DURMITOR. — Request early answer to my 0530/14 (re whereabouts of Yugoslavian DURMITOR.) (C.in C. E.I., 0734 Z/16, to Admty.)

CANBERRA. — My 1836/10. CANBERRA does not now form part of Force V. (C.in C. E.I., 0726Z/16).

WOOLWICH. — Orders for passage to Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0806Z/16).

/ Air Report .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Air Report. Sudan, night 14-15/11. 2 Wellesleys attacked Asmara, bombs falling among buildings around M.T. workshops. Unidentified aircraft reported by M.R.U. off Port Sudan believed minelaying. Day 15/11, Wellesleys attacked Kassala, all bombs falling on buildings near station. 1 Blenheim attacked listening post at Difnein Island, bombs falling near W/T hut. All aircraft returned. 2 S.79's bombed Port Sudan docks, damage negligible. A Gladiator engaged enemy at 200 yards and 1 S.79 believed damaged. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1306/16).

Djibuti. Summary No. 157. 0845 to 1050/16, 1 Glenn Martin French Flight reconnoitred Djibuti and Eritrean Coast northwards to Feder. Flying boat reported in Djibuti harbour in Summary No. 154 not seen in harbour or immediate vicinity or hauled up. No sign troop concentrations or activities and no changes Assab. Only 3 burst at Assab. No casualties. Times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden, 1919/16)

CORNWALLIS
INVESTIGATOR Proposal to exchange these H.M.I. ships for service with R.N. Remarks. Request approval. Proposed to effect exchange (date). (C.in C. E.I., 0436Z/16, to Admty.)

COLOMBO Attack on coaster off Mogadishu. (See 17/11).

Bombing Volcanoes Suggestion (C.in C. E.I. 1240Z/16).

Seizure of Japanese fishing boats. / Governor Burma's 1042 C/15 regarding seizure of Japanese fishing boats and crews passed to you. (C.in C. E.I. 0706Z/16 to Adty.)
/ Circulated as from Governor Colombo; message shewed this place of origin on cable form.

Operation "Rope" My 1916/10. Intend DORSETSHIRE shall carry out operation 'ROPE' p.m./18. (C.in C. E.I. 0906Z/16 to Adty.)

Operation "Canvas" My 1834/6. Operation Canvas has been postponed until May. Consideration is being given to combined naval and air action prior to this date. (C.in C. E.I. 1212Z/16).

Convoy W.S.3. Arrived Suez p.m./16 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1812/16).

16/11 Suez arrival CALEDON arrival and departure 1350 KIMBERLEY departure 1600 CLIVE. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 2203/16).

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Repatriees. My 1052/6. Ministry of Shipping anxious to know numbers being sent to Lourenco Marques, date, etc. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China, 1810/16).

Indo-China. Telegram No. 12, de Schompre to de Gaulle. Situation. (C.in C. China 0435Z/16) Ditto, No. 13, (C.in C. China, 0437Z/16)

Air Force. Proposed allocation of flying boat squadrons. Advanced bases. 1 fast ocean going ship 1000 tons capacity shallow draught required (C.in C. Far East 1115/16).

America and West Indies.

German Ships, Tampico. My 0043/16. Tampico reports ORINOCO, RHEIN sailed 2315/15. (S.O.I., Kingston, to Admty., 0203/16). My 0043/16. Tampico reports that it is possible that some of the Italian ships at Tampico may also sail. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0354/16) (S.O.I. Kingston 0203/16. Proceed forthwith at 20 knots by Old Bahamas Channel to establish patrol in Florida Straits between Miami and Birrini to intercept German ship. U.S. destroyers and aircraft may be shadowing. (C.in C. A.W.I., to VAN KINSBERGEN, 0501/16).

VAN KINSBERGEN patrol. Your 0043/16, 0203/16 and 0301/16. U.S. Naval Patrols are expected to broadcast movements of German ships in F.L. on 500 kc/s. Instruct Jamaica and Belize commerical W/T stations to pass such report to me immediately. (C.in C. A.W.I. to S.O.I. Kingston, 0521/16).

ASCANIA
MALOJA Keep steam at short notice on arrival harbour. Intend to sail you p.m. today, to Florida Straits to intercept IDARWALD, ORINOCO, RHEIN and PHRYGIA, which sailed from Tampico about 2300 R/15. (C.in C. A.W.I. to ASCANIA, 0522/16). Cancel my 0522/16. MALOJA has been detailed. (C.in C. A.W.I., 0957/16 to ASCANIA).

PHRYGIA destroyed. My 0203/16. Tampico reports ORINOCO developed engine trouble, now anchored in River. PHRYGIA destroyed by fire outside Tampico breakwater 0300/16, cause unknown. Crew placed on board ORINOCO. IDARWALD and RHEIN re-entered port 0400. (S.O.I., Kingston, to Admty. etc., 0954/16).

/ 3 ships returned ....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

3 ships returned. Three of four German ships have returned to port, but PHRYGIA caught fire and has been abandoned outside port, crew coming ashore in life boats. Appears ORINOCO developed engine trouble before actually clearing port. (Consul-Gen., Mexico City, no T.O.O./16)

PRINCE ROBERT. My 1722/9. Patrol off Talcahuano 20/11 and carry out following programme. (C.in C. A.W.I. to PRINCE ROBERT, 1101/16).

WAR BRAHMIN. To proceed forthwith by Old Bahamas Channel to Florida Straits and patrol between 10 and 20 miles 270° from North Bimini Light, ready to fuel VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE and MALOJA. Keep good lookout for German ships ORINOCO RHEIN, PHRYGIA and IDARWALD, sailed from Tampico p.m.15/11. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1002/16 to WAR BRAHMIN).

DIOMEDE, VAN KINSBERGEN, MALOJA. S.O.I. Kingston's 0954/16. Cancel my 0501/16. Netherlands gunnery training ship VAN KINSBERGEN proceed to Jamaica at economical speed. MALOJA has returned to Bermuda. DIOMEDE to comply with my 0952/12. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1301/16, to DIOMEDE, VAN KINSBERGEN).

DIOMEDE. Leave QUEEN ELIZABETH when 50 miles clear of Trinidad and proceed 20 knots through Mona Passage and steer for Old Bahama Channel. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/16 to DIOMEDE).

Convoy B.H.X. 84. Returned from convoy HENRI MORY from S.C.11 engine trouble CORDELIA from B.H.X.84 scattered. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1521/16).

Italians supplying torpedoes to Germany. Navy Department informs me. From Madrid. Italian N.A. asserted that the Italians were having a difficult time supplying all their naval and aircraft units with torpedoes since they are required at present to supply "all torpedoes which are being used by Germans" for this reasons the Attache stated Whitehead factory at Trieste has been considerably enlarged to take care of increased production.
(N.A. Washington 1155/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

RHEIN
IDARWALD
ORINOCO
PHRYGIA

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Sailed from Tampico and returned.
(See America and West Indies.)
PHRYGIA destroyed by fire outside breakwater 0300/16, cause unknown, crew placed on board ORINOCO. IDARWALD and RHEIN re-entered port 0400. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0954/16).

State department informed me. All 4 slipped their harbour. ORINOCO developed engine trouble and returned to Tampico. Fire broke out on PHRYGIA and she was burned to water's edge. The RHEIN and IDARWALD returned to port.
Mr. Butler, Workington 1313/16).

GERMANIA.

Probability of sailing. German Consul overheard to say if further supply of oil is agreed to she would R/V with ADMIRAL SCHEER.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1920/16 to Adty).

BRAKE.

Tanker BRAKE is having condenser screens cleaned but imminent departure seems unlik-ly owing to bad weather.
(Actg. Consul, Vigo 1847/16).

ATLAS
BELLONA.

Barcelona reports ATLAS docked 15/11. BELLONA will follow. TRAPANI is ready to leave. Barcelona now instructed to inform Gibraltar as necessary.
(N.A. Madrid 1941/16 to S.O.(I) Gib:)

Italian Merchant Ships.

TRAPANI.

See German Merchant Ships.

MOST SECRET.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FABIAN. British, 3059 tons, sunk by submarine at 1600 G.M.T./16 in 03.00N., 15.00W (C.in C. South Atlantic. 1054/18).

PLANTER. Submarine attack signal, 55.38 N., 8.27 W, PLANTER torpedoed. (Scapa W/T 1925/16). Attack U/B that torpedoed PLANTER in 55.38 N., 0.27 W. (C.in C. W.A. to WITHERINGTON, 1937/16). Proceed with despatch to assistance of PLANTER (position) at 1922 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to ASSURANCE, MARAUDER, 1938/16) CLARE arrived with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0835/18) Should have been in Convoy S.L.F.53, but was apparently ahead of the convoy (DOR).

FABIAN Sunk. FABIAN sunk by Submarine on 1400 G.M.T./16 /11 approx. 3°N,15°W saved Master 3 mates 4 engineers 2 operators 23 crew 6 missing. (BRITISH STATESMAN 0310/18).

Submarines Reported. Italian. 1 in Atlantic probably North of 55° N. No recent news.
1 more probably at sea in Atlantic whereabouts unknown.

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions. German. 1 in 55° 30' N., 9° W at 1052/16.
1 in area 56° to 57° N., 13° to 15° W, at 1007/16.
1 was in area 57° to 58° N., 17° to 19° W., at 1206/15.
1 in area 59° to 60° N., 20°W at 0358/16.
1 was in about 60° 20' N., 11° 30'W at 0103/16 probably homeward bound.
1 was to northward of Shetlands at 2253/15, homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1233/16).

1053. D.F. probable U/Boat 55.30 N., 9° W. reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1121/16).

0108. D.F. probable U/Boat. 60.20 n., 11.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0145/16).

1314. My 1121/16. D.F. bearings at 1314/16 indicate these may be a second U/Boat in area 55° to 55.30 N., 11° to 12 W. (D.D.I.C. 1402/16) Advising H.G.46 to keep clear to northward if possible. (C.in C. W.A. 1435/16).

1830. There is indication that a U/Boat may be following you. (C.in C. W.A. 1830/16, to SALADIN, BROKE, etc. - Convoy S.L.53).

1915. A.F. message. 55.38 N., 8.28'W., at 1815 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2056/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1550. Investigating suspicious object of oil patch in 61.27' N., 00.00 E. Have attacked enemy with dive bombs and estimate no hits. ((A/c, duty "R", to Sullom Voe, 1550/16).

Mediterranean.

14/10. On 14/10 attack on asdic contact in position 285, RAS EL TIN 20, carried out by HAUSA assisted by BANDOLERO and Sunderland L (?) 2066. After depth charge and 70 yards clear of pattern (?large) air bubbles 80 feet in diameter appeared. Assessed C.
(C.in C. Med., 1223/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Information of Enemy Movements — Your 1031/16. Paras 1 and 2. This should have been done and will be done in future Para 3. This unfortunately will generally be the case. (1st S.L. 2031/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/17 (D.C. 1134/17)

Scapa Defences — Progress Report. (R.A.Scapa 2015/17 to Adty.)

Movements

Trawler Patrol Lines T.R. 30-3 — My 1617/14 and 1827/14. These lines will be spaced 20 miles apart along following Datum Line asfrom 1400/21. (R.A.D. H.F. to BRILLIANT, etc.)

FORMIDABLE — Escort during trials in Irish Sea 20 to 25/11, VESPER, VENOMOUS and 1 destroyer of 9th Escort Group. (C. in C., W.A. 1103/17 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

FORFAR — Will be ready for sea p.m./19 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1120/17 to R.A.N.P.)

CATTISTOCK — After leaving F.N. 36 adjust speed to join Patrol O off Humber 54 F Buoy at 0500/18. (D. 21 1124/17 to CATTISTOCK)

AURORA — On passage to Scapa sails Sheerness 1315 and due Aldeburgh 1745/17 (C. in C., Nore, 1046/17 to LOWESTOFT, etc.,)

WESTMINSTER, WALLACE — Anchor in Barrow Deep for the night and proceed at first daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 1156/17 to WESTMINSTER) See also Shipping)

CATHAY — Your 1311/16. Expect not ready to sail from Greenock till p.m./26 (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1225/17 to Adty.)

/VESPER.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

VESPER VENOMOUS	After escoting FORMIDABLE about 26/11, should rejoin Nore Command. (A.C.N.S. H. 1259/17 to C. in C., W.A.)
CAIRO	My 1259. Course of 340° Type H.A. 138. (CAIRO 1311/17 to Admty.)
VETERAN VERITY	Noon position 55° 2' N., 9° 20' W., course 058°. Left to fuel Londonderry. (VETERAN 1400/17 to C. in C., W.A.)
CRISPIN	Is being fitted with special A/A armaments. Will come under operational control of C. in C., W.A. but will continue to be administered by F.O.C.N.P. (A.C.N.S. H. 1400/17 to C. in C., W.A.)
HAVELOCK HESPERUS HURRICANE	All Destroyers ordered by F.O.C. 18 C.S. at 1030/17 to part company in 52° 55' N., 17° 45' W., owing to weather. HERPERUS and HURRICANE in company. Hove to. (HAVELOCK 1401/17 to C. in C., W.A.)
Portsmouth	Night Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1427/17
Northern Patrol	Trawler lines tonight. (AC.O.S. 1506/17)
Dover	Dispositions for Night 17/18. (V.A.DOver 1506/17)
Orkneys	Positions at 2000/17. (A.C.O.S. 1514/17)
Rosyth	Movements tonight. 17/18. C. in C., Rosyth 1606/17)
AURORA ARETHUSA	C. in C., H.F. 1452/17. AURORA is to join C. in C., H.F. at Scapa. ARETHUSA on completion should also join C. in C., H.F. for working up. (A.V.N.S. H. 1620/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

/More....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

More & Harwich — Movements Summary (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1821/17 to SHELDRAKE)

REVENGE — ARAKAKA's 1720/17. Presume she was reporting you. (A.C.N.S. H. 2029/17 to REVENGE)

CAMITO — E.T.A. in 56° 30' N., 11° W., 1000/19. Course 112° Speed 11 knots (CAMITO 2330/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER — BONAVENTURE 1111/16/11. BONAVENTURE return to Scapa. CHITRAL return to Clyde. (C. in C., H.F. 0953/17 to BONAVENTURE)

SIKH sent in to Skaal Fiord by REPULSE to pil. Am ordered to R/V with REPULSE in 61° 30' N., 8° 30' W., at 1000/18 for return to Scapa. (SIKH 1029/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

In view of recent losses of A.M.C's, can you provide any escort for CHITRAL to Clyde (A.C.N.A. H. 1753/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

Indications point to the possibility of SCHEER being in the vicinity of the Azores. (1st S.L. 1816/17 to SALOPIAN, MORETON BAY, CILICIA, ESPERANCE BAY, MARSDALE)

My position 53° 16' N., 25° 35' W., course 074°., 13 knots, at 1900. (CHITRAL 1915/17 to Admty.)

ACTIVE and ACHATES are to R/V with CHITRAL in 55° N., 21° W., at 1900/18 and escort her to Clyde through 56° 30' N., 15° W. (C. in C., W.A. 2305/17 to ACTIVE)

MAIAD Expedition — Your 2246/16. My position 69. 22' N., 7° 55' W., Intend proceed to Scapa. Result of operation. (C.S. 15 0225/17 to C. in C., H.F.) See Operations Volume.

MAIAD arrived Scapa from N.W. at 0900/18. (A.C.O.S. 1953/17)

A.F.O. 2036/40. Proceedure to be followed. (D.N.I., 1320/17 to C. in C., H.F.) See Operations Volume.

/Operation COLLAR..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation COLLAR	My 1331/14 and 2040/16. Amend positions A and B to read 56° 30' N., 10° W., and 56° 30' N., 20° W., respectively. (C. in C., W.A. 1507/17 to EDINBURGH, CAIRO)
LOWESTOFT	No Motor Launches will join you tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1517/17 to LOWESTOFT)
FURIOUS	Owners report SS PENRGYN sunk by you when outward bound. Please report details. (N.O.I.C Liverpool 2001/17 to FURIOUS)
Dover Shelled	Between 1933 and 2205 tonight, enemy batteries at Calais, Wissant, and Gris Nez fired about 120 rounds mainly intended for convoy C.W. 17. A few rounds fell behind the R.M. Siege Battery, and one in Dover town. No damage reported by convoy. No casualties ashore. (V.A.Dover, 2250/17 to Admty.)

Submarines

SWORDFISH	Nothing heard of her since leaving Portsmouth a.m./7 to relieve USK off Brest. If nothing heard by 0900/18 must be considered lost. (V.A.S. 1004/17 to Admty.)
TALISMAN	Route from Wolfe Rock to Ile de Groix area (Capt S. 2. 1109/17 to S/M's Area B.)
TRIDENT	My 1101/15. Bombing restrictions (Capt S.3. 1116/17 to TRIDENT)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0800/18. (V.A.S. 1721/17, 1934/17, 1903/17)

MOST SECRET

17.11.1940
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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Dutch Coast

Shipping at Helder, One M/V at 51° 33' N., 3° 40' E., and a Convoy of 7 ships at 52° 51' N., 4° 32' E., attacked by aircraft. (H.Q.B.C. 0037/17)

Air Patrols

Dawn Patrols have not been flown. (C. in C., Nore, 0725/17 to Admty.) S.A. 2 and S.A. 3. cancelled this p.m. owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1240/17 to Admty.)

Cancel Patrol in my 2028/14. (C. in C., Rosyth 1320/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Shall not require any further R/C by 98 Squadron after today. (C. in C., C.C. 1618/17 to Alabaster)

Assessments of S.A.I.E. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1628/17) S.A.I.A. S. 16 A, S. 16 B, (C. in C., Rosyth 1828/17 to Admty.)

Air Searches

For 18/11 (C. in C., Rosyth 1956/17)

A/A Gun in M.L. 120

V.A.Dover's 1903/15 and my 2327/15. To allay undue anxiety, see my letter 5994/9680 of 13/11 to Admty. forwarding report from C.O. of M.L. 120 as to excellent performance of this gun against A/C. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1127/17 to Admty.)

Rosyth

Fighter Escort cancelled tonight. Kites may be kept flying. (C. in C., Rosyth 1508/17 to SPURS, etc.)

Falmouth. Proposed Balloon Vessel Patrol

As a preventative against minelaying by aircraft request permission for one Falmouth balloon barrage vessel to patrol in an area Pennance Point, 1.5 miles 180° from St. Anthony Head, St Anthony Head, by night only when weather permits. (C. in C., W.A. 1526/17 to Admty.)

Air Escorts. Operation S.N.3.

Your 2349/15, and 1249/17 to C. in C., Rosyth. A/S Air Escort arranged as follows:
One Hudson from 0800/18 to 1730/18.
One Anson from 0800/19 to 1300/19
Three Blenheim fighters will be standing by at immediate notice at Sumbrough during daylight /18. (C. in C., Rosyth 1800/17 to R.A.M.L.)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

MARAUDER — Attacked in 55° 30' N., 7° 52' W., by A/C 3 bombs dropped. (Port Patrick Radio 1116/17)

Even-numbered E.N. Convoy — Being attacked by A/C (Scapa 1150/17) Fighters being sent (Scapa 1220/17)

Felixtowe — At about 0930/17, Bombs were dropped near Boom Defence Ground. 3 Civilians and few military injured, one seriously. No material damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1241/17 to Admty.)

FISHPOOL (Bombed 14/11) — (Bombed 14/11) Request you send Tugs to FISHPOOL in 55° N., 17° 4' W., at 0800 (C in C., W.A. 1243/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock) ASSURANCE to proceed forthwith, Tug THAMES leaves Campbeltown 1530/17 to assist, passing through 55° 38' N., 8° 27' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1451/17 to ASSURANCE)

Unless both Tugs required to tow ST. GERMAIN one is to be diverted to assist FISHPOOL. Report action taken. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1457/18 to MALLOW and ASSURANCE) Position of FISHPOOL at 0800/18 was 53° 46' N., 16° 45' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2035/18 to TENACITY, ASSURANCE)

SOUTHSEA — (H.M.Paddle Minesweeper) Attacked by aircraft this morning. Aircraft shot down, no survivors. No casualties in SOUTHSEA (F.O.I.C Tyne 1249/17 to Admty.)

Mining

Plymouth — Traffic in Sound may be resumed. (C. in C., W.A. 0726/17)

Humber — Closed (F.O.Humber 0809/17 to Admty.)

Harwich Area Clearance Sweep — Weather permitting intend sailing 7 Fleet Sweepers at 0900 to-morrow for clearance sweep of 148 Q.Z.S. 2½ miles on either side of No 52 buoy extending from centre line 1½ miles eastward Request air protection from 0930 to 1700 (F.O.I.C. 1802/17 to C. in C., Nore)

/Blyth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining- Contd

Blyth — My 1021/16. Restrictions now removed. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2249/17 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Unknown Unit — At 0608/17 in 58° 40' N., 0° 23' W., D/F unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0756/17)

Warship and M.V. — Sighted in 49° 56' N., 30° 42' W., steering West and apparently working together. (ARAKAJA 1720/17 to Admty.)

2 Armed M/V's — Ungraded report received that German intend sailing 2 armed M/V's from Biscay ports to a port in Latin America with German speciality goods to show ineffectiveness of Blockade. (D.D.I.C. 2128/17 to Authorities concerned) (V.A.S. 2311/17 to S/M's Area B)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ABERDEEN — My 2039/15. Proceed to Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 0045/17 to ABERDEEN)

MAREEN — (Motor-Boat) Fouled pier in river and sank on rising tide. No casualties. Salvage being undertaken. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1256/17 to Admty)
MAREEN has been raised and repairs are being put in hand (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1656/18)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

E.N. 27
W.N. 39

My 1716/15. leave E.N. 27 to meet before dark W.N. 39 11 ships. S.O. DANEMAN from Duncansby Head 1300/17. routed direct Rattray Head. On meeting E.N. 28 sailing Methil 2100/18 transfer and cover Pentland Firth. Thence enter Scapa. (R.A. (D) H.F. 0945/17 to ALYNBANK)

W.S.4b

Route from 270° Oversay Light 6 miles at 0830/18 (details) Thence to Freetown (C. in C., W.A. 1509/17 to NORFOLK)

Ships addressed are Destroyer escorts of W.S. 4 B S.O.HIGHLANDER (C. in C., W.A. 1733/17, 1833/17 yo HIGHLANDER) Sailed 1355/17/11 6 ships speed of advance to R/V 10½ knots. Escort BATH, ST ALBANS, ST MARY. Commodore Robinson in SS DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1438/17 to Admty.)

O.B. Convoys

It has been decided submarine should accasionally accompany Atlantic convoys (Details) Request you will detail S/M for his duty reporting when available at Clyde. (D.O.D. (H) 1656/17 to V.A.S.)

H.G. 46

R/V with H.G. 46 B.M. 1600/18, 053° 46' N., 005° 08' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1753/17 to LEEDS UNITED)

O.B. 244 S

Proceed to R/V with O.B. 244 S. Thence to Sydney Cape Breton parting company from Convoy at dispersal point adjusting speed to arrive 28/11. You may be diverted to Gibraltar by C. in C., W.A. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1300/17, to SANDWICH)

Sailed 1355/17 14 ships, escort CASTLETON, VISCOUNT, WHITEHALL, SANDWICH, CYCLAMEN, RHODODENDRON, HIBISCUS. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1733/17)

H.X. 84
(Attacked by Raider. 5/11)

Request report describing action of STUREHOLM after dispersal of convoy and subsequent rescue of survivors. (D.T.D. 1737/17 to C.O.A.C. Halifax)

/F.S. 36.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	**Shipping**
F.S. 36	Delayed by full southerly gale. Smith's Knoll. (WESTMINSTER, 0745/17)
F.N. 37	Report if you require fuel before proceeding with F.N. 37 at 1000/18. (C. in C., Nore, 2031/17 to WESTMINSTER)
F.N. 37 } F.S. 36 }	Your 2031/17. Have 70% fuel remaining sufficient for normal F.N. trip, but no fresh meat or bread. Propose WALLACE should proceed Sheerness for Supplies for both ships subsequently joining F.N. 37. WESTMINSTER to cover F.S. 36 into Nore E.T.A. 1030 and F.N. 37 outwards. WALLACE should have rejoined by 1100. (WESTMINSTER, 2107/17 to C. in C., Nore.)
	CAMPBELL proceed daylight 18/11 from Sheerness to relieve you. On relief proceed Sheerness at 12 knots to fuel and provision (C. in C., Nore, 2137/17 to WESTMINSTER)
KINDAT (British, 4355 tons)	Leaking badly and being sent to Glasgow for immediate docking. e.t.a. a.m/18/11. (ARAWA, 1030Z/17 to C. in C., W.A.)
CANADA	Sailed French Hospital Ship CANADA. e.t.a. 24/11 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1629/17 to Admty)
W.N. 42	Code, "Chitty" (N.C.S.O. 1701/17)
H.X.	Commodores of H.X. Convoys should be supplied with approximate S.C. routes to enable ships sent back for lack of speed to join slow convoy at sea. (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C., Halifax 1458/17)
H.X. 88	Route. Escort AUSONIA, returns to Halifax. (D.T.D. 1359/17)
H.X. 87	Route. Escort ALUANIA, returns to Halifax (D.T.D. 1358/17)

MOST SECRET.

17.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS. — Brazilian. My 1753/20/10 re interception. Ship expected to leave Lisbon today. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 1329/17).

NEWCASTLE — Sailed from Gibraltar for Malta (Operation White) at 1230/17. (D.O.R. 18/11).

ADMIRAL SCHEER suspected near Azores. — Portuguese Naval authorities received telegram from Capt. Port Ponta Delgada stating certain remarks and behaviour of German Consul give rise strong suspicion that pocket battleship in vicinity of Azores.

GERMANIA (see also German Merchant Ships.) — Further Consul demanded fuel for GERMANIA to sail immediately 16/11. Tagus Oil Company refused to supply. In view of threat Consul then made Portuguese fear possibility of bombardment of oil tanks. KLAUS SCHOKE at Horta demanded leave to sail 16/11. Possibly both these vessels seeking convoy pocket battleship. (N.A. Lisbon 1142/17).

Coal bumbers for French ship. — My 1819/16. Considered inadvisable French Legation should apply to Portuguese Gov. for coal. Suggest I should grant to French Naval Attache minimum amount of coal necessary to reach Casablanca and make it appear that this was done on my own initiative. Embassy concurs. Request immediate instructions. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1225/17 to Adty.)

South Atlantic.

SELANDIA
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE — Reply to 1715/14. Not understood why provision of alternative shipping may cause uncertainty. (D.S.T. 0007/17 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

S.L. convoys. — 20 ships will sail in next S.L. Slow convoy without ocean escort 19/11, speed 8 knots. Next S.L. convoy, about 40 ships will sail with ocean escort 21/11 speed 9 knots. In view of undesirability of reducing speed of S.L. convoy during passage of what is dangerous area and large number of ships in slow convoy suggest providing additional local escort and bringing in two convoys separately instead of together and this to be carried out in future when possible. If considered practicable to provide additional escort it would be for consideration whether S.L. slow convoys in future should sail to reach rendezvous with local escorts on same date as S.L. convoys or on separate dates altogether. (C.in C. S.A. 1052/17).

/ DEUCALION .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic. (Continued)

DEUCALION — DUCALION not routed in accordance with Admiralty 1157/15 received after sailing. Position E as vessaed should be amended accordingly if considered necessary. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1202B/17).

CORNWALL & PRETORIA CASTLE to act as escorts for convoys W.S.4(a) and W.S.4(c). combined. — Your 1133/16 and A.T. 1851/14. Has convoy been directed to Capetown instead of Durban because of ships inability to comply with requirement (a) in N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1903/16. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1231/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

Convoy W.S. — Your 1850/14 SCYTHIA cannot carry enough water for voyage to Durban. Whole convoy is therefore being sailed for Capetown. My 1133/16 Durban departure delayed 24 hours expected time of arrival Capetown now dawn 29 November. (C.in C. S.A. 1419N/17.)

x 1851/14 intended.

Convoys W.S.4A. W.S.4C combined.) — Sailing telegram 1.Convoys WS 4A and WS 4C combined (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1917/17).

Departure 1800/17 CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE for Capetown escorting combined convoys W.S.4A and W.S.4C. (S.O.(I) Freetown 2035/17).

Mediterranean.

REGULUS — Operation BS leave Alexandria 0900/18 and after exercising proceed through 031° 50' 028° 00', 035 deg. 08' 023 deg. 22', to area N. 038° 35' 016° 54' - 040° 40 - 40. (Capt. (S) 1 0927/17.)

Italian activity round Saseno Island. — Wireless traffic from Italian surface ships has been exceptionally heavy during night of 16/17 Nov. This activity is apparently centred around Saseno Island. It is not possible at present to say what Naval forces are involved except that there appear to be 8 or 9 surface units concerned. The movement, whatever its exact nature, obviously transcends in importance anything that has been detected since beginning of the Greece-Italian war. B.N.A. Athens informed. (Capt. on Staff, Alexandria 1022/17 to C.in C. Med.)

R.A.F. Greece. — R.A.F. convoy of 4 vessels arrived at Piraeus 2200/16. (N.C.S.O. Athens 1200/17)

R/C of Trieste, Pola Spezia. — It is important to establish the present location of the Main Italian Units. Can Trieste Pola and Spezia be covered by reconnaissance from Malta. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1309/17 to V.A. Malta).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Your 1309. It has already been arranged to visit Spezzia when a Glen Martin is available hope 19/11. All aircraft have recently been employed on reconnaissance for Fleet operations, and another reconnaissance to Brindisi and Taranto arranged today 17/11 had to be cancelled on account of Operation WHITE.
Two. Trieste and Pola are doubtful as they are barely within range but matter is being examined by A.O.C. Mediterranean.
(V.A. Malta 2229/17 to Adty.)

Air Raids, Alexandria.

Air raids 2110 to 2140, 0030 to 0145 and 0240 to 0300, hence total about about 18 bombs, seven Egyptians killed including five children and twelve wounded. Some damage to private property and to ports and lighterage gear in Arsenal basin.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1400/17).

Italian S/M's

A report has been received emanating from an unchecked source that two Italian submarines will go through Straits today to join seven others which are based Rio de Oro and Canary Is.
(Consul, Tangier 1605/17 to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

Operation "White" Loss of 9 aircraft.

Only 4 Hurricanes and 1 Skua arrived. Feared 1 Skua leading second lot and 8 Hurricanes force-landed in sea due to lack of fuel. Sunderland picked up one pilot. Search being continued by 2 Sunderlands and 1 Swordfish. Visibility very poor. (V.A. Malta, 1135/17 to S.O. Force H).
First flight took off in 037° 29' N. 006° 43' E. Second flight in 037° 24' N. 006° 52' E. Both positions being to eastward of position given by ARGUS as furthest west under weather conditions.
(F.O. Force H. 1712/17 to V.A. Malta.)

In view of reported movements of Italian Surface Vessels I considered it undesirable to proceed further East than was essential.
From information available there was no reason to anticipate head wind. Forecasts suggested tail wind. ARGUS stated aircraft should have had ample endurance to reach Malta.
Visibility at taking off was maximum and no indications that visibility was poor to eastward. (F.O. Force H 1714/17).

/ Your 1135/17. ...

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Your 1135/17. Request you will confirm that previous to Hurricanes being flown off S.O. Force 'H' had been informed as to weather conditions in vicinity of Malta. (1st S.L. 1720/17 to V.A. Malta). Reply, see 2343/17.

Details of Hurricane Loss.

My 1135/17. All overdue aircraft must now be considered lost. Circumstances were as follows. (a) Sunderland met the first Skua and six Hurricanes at R/V North of Galita Island and escorted them on. Two of these Hurricanes ran out of fuel 25 miles and 34 miles 300°, from Malta. The first was observed to crash by Sunderland but it took half an hour to locate and rescue the pilots.
(b) Disabled second Sunderland from Gibraltar was unable to leave and a Glenn Martin was sent instead from Malta. The second Skua and six other Hurricanes failed to rendezvous with this aircraft. The Skua asked for D/F bearings from Malta at 0957 (zone minus One) He then bore 260° to 270° but was apparently unable to receive signals giving these bearings. Malta was also in R/T communication with two of the Hurricanes, and at one time Skua wasthought to be quite close.
(c) Aircraft and A/S Trawler have been searching to westward of Malta and Gozo throughout the day without success.
(V.A.Malta 1915/17 to S.O. Force H).

Weather Conditions.

Your 1720/17. At 0330 when Sunderland took off visibility was good and there was no indication of any sudden change in the weather. At dawn conditions were still favourable and therefore no special weather report was sent. Weather was being carefully watched by A.O.C. Mediterranean. At 0800 the wind freshened from south and visibility decreased quickly.
2. Four of first flight of Hurricanes arrived at 0922 which was within two minutes of expected time of arrival igven by ARGUS in her 0249/15.
Of four aircraft which arrived one landed with no fuel and others with three, four, and 12 gallons respectively although the formation approached the Island on direct route.
It appears from report of Skua which arrived that first flight left ARGUS in 006° 40' E. and not 007° 30' E. as was expected. There is no information as to position from which second flight left.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 2343/17 to Admty.)

/ NEWCASTLE .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

NEWCASTLE — There is no evidence so far to suggest operation White has been observed by enemy. Extensive westerly gale now blowing should afford good cover for NEWCASTLE. (S.O. Force H 1749/17 to C.in C. Med.)

SHEFFIELD. — Your 1727. My position course and speed are 037° 34' N. 003° 31' E. 265° 9 knots. Full westerly gale. SHEFFIELD proceeding independently.
(S.O. Force H 1800A/17 to Adty.)

Force H — Force H less NEWCASTLE proceed Gibraltar at Maximum speed.
(1st S.L. 1727/17 to S.O. Force H).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. — A. My 1727. Reports received point to SCHEER being near Azores.
B. RENOWN ARK ROYAL and other units at your discretion are to proceed to Gibraltar at maximum speed and after refuelling are to proceed towards Azores.
C. Operation COLLAR will be deferred if necessary.
D. Withdrawal of support for NEWCASTLE is accepted. (1st S.L. 1800/17 to S.O. Force H).

Your 1800/17. By proceeding without destroyer screen RENOWN and ARK ROYAL can proceed at somewhat higher speed if situation justifies additional submarine risk.
(S.O. Force H 1914/17).

Your 1914/17. Keep destroyers with you.
(C.N.S. 2025/17 to S.O. Force H).

RAMILLIES
Operation Collar. — Your 1643/14. Admty. have now requested RAMILLIES to be passed from east to west during Collar. Following are my broad intentions. (C.in C. Med., 1207/17, to S.O. Force H) See Med. Vol.

Appts. of V.A.C.L.F. and R.A. 1 B.S. — My 2000/18/10. Asking that dates of transfers of flag may be reported.
(Hd. of M. 1643/17 to C.in C. Med.)

RAMILLIES. — Re ammunition (D.O.D.(F) 1738/17)

Asdics. — Your 1753/5. Approved in principle to give asdics to Greeks (D. A/S W. 1806/17 to C.in C. Med.)

Dodecanese Is. — C.in C. Med. 2008/17 See Mediterranean Volume.

Corvettes. — Your 1207/17 para. 5. Corvettes sailed 1100/16. Unlikely they will reach Gib. in time to leave with Operation "Collar".
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2351/17 to C.in C. Med.)

/ Bari Raid ....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Bari Raid. 11 Wellington a/c from Malta bombed harbour and railway junction at Bari during night 16-17/11. One a/c failed to return. (D.O.R. 18/11).

Convoys. V.A.L.F. in ORION, with AJAX and SYDNEY, is operating S.E. of Crete covering passage of a convoy escorted by CALCUTTA, WRYNECK and ILEX. (D.O.R. 18/11).
COVENTRY is providing A/A escort for 9 Greek troop transports from Suda Bay to Salonika (D.O.R. 18/11).

Bombs or Mines, Alexandria. 4 heavy bombs or mines with delay action of about 72 hours and dropped during raid night 13/11 exploded in harbour p.m./16. One in the vicinity of 28 quay and three near floating dock. Damage appears to be slight but dock will be out of commission for short time whilst repairs are being made. Further report will be made after examination. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 2231/17).

East Indies.

COLOMBO, Mogadisha COLOMBO obtained at least 2 hits on small coaster of 1500 tons enclosed off Mogadisha p.m./16. Shore battieres replied but did not hit. (C.in C. E.I., 0324Z/17).
The maximum range shore batteries appears to be 15 thousand yards. (C.in C. E.I. 0622Z/17).

OLE JACOB. Norwegian tanker due Colombo 13/11 from Singapore. Overdue (S.O.(I) Colombo 0454Z/17)

BANKURA Sabotage Master of BANKURA reports suspected case of sabotage of mail between Bushire and Jask. Details. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 0646 Z/17)

SHROPSHIRE S.W.3. ORONTES SHROPSHIRE is to escort convoy S.W.3. from vicinity of Aden to Durban (ii) route for S.W.3 after passing Aden.
ORONTES is to be detached to Mombasa as arranged by SHROPSHIRE.
(C.in C. E.I. 0722/17 amended 1508Z/18)

Seizure of Japanese fishing boats. Lieut. Ferguson of Burmese R.N.V.R. found 25 Japanese fishing illegally near Great Swinton Island (corrupt group) Archipelago. He seized their (group missing) fishing boats and brought these into Victoria Point on 10/11. Japanese fishermen were left on Island. Local Officers accompanied armed force are proceeding to Great Swinton Island to apprehend Japanese

/ fishermen ...

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Seizure of Japanese fishing boats. (contd.)

fishermen. Proposed to prosecute them. (Governor Colombo 1042/17.)

Your 1042/17. Repeat word between "Swinton Island" and "Archipelago". State act under which it is proposed to prosecute. (Admty. 1808/17 to Governor, Governor's Camp, Burma).

Your 1808/17 addressed Governor Ceylon. Telegram 1042 C passed to Admiralty by C. in C. East Indies was originated by Governor Burma. Word between Swinton Island and archipelago is Mergui. Governor Burma is requested to inform Admiralty and C.in C. East Indies of name of act under which it is proposed to prosecute (name omitted telegram 1042 C). (C.in C. E.I., 08442/18 to Admty.)

Kisimayu.

(a) Recent reports from East Africa indicate certain shipping movements have been taking place lately off Italian Somaliland. Until 17/10 air photographs at Kisimayu taken periodically show apparent unchanging total of thirteen ships in port. Since then the following reports have been received.

Shipping movements.

(1) On Oct. 18th air photographs showed 14 ships
(2) Subsequently from reliable and most secret source indicated that probably one Italian ship left Kisimayu for Mogadiscio Oct. 28th escorted by one aircraft.
(3) On Nov. 4th air photographs showed 15 ships, newcomer resembled GUISEPPE MAZZINI
(4) On Nov. 16th at Mogadiscio COLOMBO observed, fired on and hit a 1,500 ton coaster, all earlier reports having indicated port empty of ships.

S.S. DURMITOR missing.

(5) Yugo Slav ship DURMITOR which had been in Lourenco Marques since Aug.23rd. sailed Sept. 26th for Batavia but did not arrive and is now unaccounted for. These facts lead me to conclude that Italian Somaliland ports are now being used.
(B) Shipping facilities at Dante are being bombarded on Nov. 18th. The bombardment of shipping at Kisimayu is also under consideration again with C.O.C. East Africa now that operation CANVAS has been postponed. I am urging it should be done as soon as ships are available.
(C) Apart from these ships (My

limitations ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

limitations have already been explained to Admiralty in my 1910 Nov. 12) I am requesting A.O.C. in C. Middle East to assist me with a co-ordinated air reconnaissance plan with a view to discovering whether this traffic is coastal or oceanic and ultimately to intercepting ships.
(C.in C. E.I. 1120Z/17 to Adty.)

China.

N.E.I. Navy. My 0251Z/12. Dutch C.in C. now informs me Netherlands Govt. agree to exchange of information and discussion, and visit of staff before departure to Singapore for this purpose will shortly be arranged.
(C.in C. China, to Admty. 0213Z/17)

C.in C. Far East. H.Q. will open at Singapore at 0800/18. Functions of Staff. (C.in C. Far East 1625/17)

America and West Indies.

German and Italian Ships at Tampico and Vera Cruz. My 0354/16 Tampico now reports Italian ships show no sign of early departure and believe further movement German ships Tampico unlikely at present. German ships Vera Cruz no sign of intended sailing. German ship PHRYGIA sunk.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 0954/17).
/ Not received: repetition called for.

HEIYO MARU
YASUKAWA MARU
BRAZIL MARU

HEIYO MARU sailed Los Angeles 24/10 for Valparaiso one day behind advertised schedule but arrived Valparaiso Nov. 16th 4 days ahead of schedule. YASUKAWA MARU sailed Los Angeles 30/9 in accordance with schedule but sailed Callao Northbound Nov. 15th 12 days ahead of schedule. Comment. Possibly received orders to hurry home. BRAZIL MARU will not call at Trinidad en route Rio de Janeiro to Panama Canal. Expected to call La Guaira and possibly Curacao for bunkers. Comment. Avoidance Trinidad ostensibly fear of delay in bunkering but more probably fear of contraband control possibly carrying German exports South America to Venezuela and for transhipment at canal.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1017/17)

MOST SECRET.

17.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

N.Y.K. Line. N.Y.K. Line. Callao reports ships between Far East and West Coast South America will call at Acapulco in addition to Manzanillo, also may omit calling at Balbao. Local Agent Ciudad Trujillo reports California Carribbean Service suspended, for 3 months. Request D.N.I. Ottawa confirm. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1032/17. to C.I.S. Singapore etc.)

Independently routed ships. Your 1107/14 infers that independently routed ships for east coast U.K. should be routed to Oban. Whereas your 1733/24/10 and 1602/25/10 only mentioned ships in H.X. convoys. Does your 1540/12/7 still hold good and are independent ships for east coast U.K. still to be routed to Clyde only. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1302/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

GERMANIA — Report indicates probable sailed from Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 0243/17) Now taking Diesel oil. Will have sufficient for 10 days at full speed. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1034/17) Sailed 1815 G.M.T. from Ponta Delgada steering West (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1631/17 F.O.C.N.A. 2115/17) Cargo aviation spirit. May intend to R.V. with enemy raider. B. 1.

KLAUS SCHOKE — Also reported KLAUS SCHOKE to sail from Horta same time (F.O.C.N.A. 1605/17)

SPEZIA — Very strong rumours German Steamship SPEZIA has been sunk. (N.A.Madrid 1945/17)

FRIESLAND
MONTSERRAT
LEIPZIG
MUNCHEN
HERMONTHIS

Re Minister Lima telegram No 0167 16/11 addressed F.O., following is gist of German minister's urgent request for oil to Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs (begins) As German ships now at Callao, Paita, have to prepare for return voyage without refuelling en route, following quantities of oil fuel are required to fill them to maximum capacity. FRIESLAND 1100 metric tons, MONTSERRAT 750, LEIPZIG 800, MUNCHEN, HERMONTHIS, 100 tons each.
FRIESLAND to take sufficient at Paita for voyage to Callao to complete and (?fuel) (ends Minister, Lima, endeavouring to convince Peruvian Authorities oil might be used for fuelling raiders. (S.O.I. Callao, 1149/17)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

LT. ST. LOUBERTIBIE
COMPIEGNE
ESPIGUETTE

French Authorities have been ordered to sail all French ships to Casablanca. Will let you know date of sailing. LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERTIBIE will be next to sail. COMPIEGNE and ESPIGUETTE cannot sail until they obtain bunkers. ESPIGUETTE will not complete loading until about 24/11. COMPIEGNE about 26/11. It will have a very bad effect here if these ships get through blockade. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1210/17)

LAUDBEL — Following ungraded report received.
SS LAUDBEL is loading (presumably in Casablanca) bi-oxide of manganese and oxide of ore. This vessel is expected to sail for Marseilles on 18/1 or 19/11; it is thought that cargo is destined for Germany or Italy (Mr. Gascoyne, Tangier 1350/17)

MOST SECRET

17.11.1940
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

PLANTER — (Torpedoed 16/11) Sank at about 2100/17. Contact attacked by WITHERINGTON at 0100/17 now believed to have been a wreck. Tug MARAUDER, sent to assistance of PLANTER was unsuccessfully bombed at 1116/17 off North of Ireland. (D.O.R. 18/11) Was not in company with S.L. 53 when split at 0900/17. (ARAWA 0930/17)

VERONICA — Swedish, 1316 tons. Torpedoed and sunk p.m./17 55.20 N., 8.45 W., (A.1.) (D.S. 442)

Submarines Reported

0750/16 — V.A.S. 1004/17. At 0750/16 a Blenheim aircraft reported that he thought he saw a submarine in 49° 30' N., 04° 40' W., but on turning to observe further no trace could be seen. Interrogation of the pilot showed that the report was very doubtful but in view of the fact that SWORDFISH has not arrived at Portsmouth the report was passed by direct telephone to Admty. for V.A.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1850/17)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian- 1 was in about 58° 20' N., 10° 20'W at 2216/16, possibly another is farther W. 1 was about 400 miles W of the Gironde at 2019/16 and is probably bound thither.
German- 1 probably in area N. of 55° N., and E. of 10° W.,
1 probably in area 56° to 57° N., 11° to 14° W.,
1 in area 58° to 59° N., 15° to 18° W., at 0322/17.
1 in area 58° to 60° N., 19° to 20° W., at 0147/17.
1 probably between Faeroes and Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1209/17)

Submarines Attacked

0831 — Your 0240 (attack on SS PLANTER) 2 patterns dropped on contact which is still firm. Electrical charge misfired. Now suspect this may be a wreck. Am proceeding Londonderry for fuel. (WITHERINGTON, 0831/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Proposed Submarine Escort for HX. Convoys.

Adty's. 1656/17.

A. In view of C.in C. Western Approaches 1844/27/10 not to S.2 and the unpleasant experiences of O.14 which came over with HX.79 suggest as an alternative that the submarine should be based at Halifax and should escort HX convoys to the point at which the ocean escort leaves them, returning thence to Halifax independently. This would eliminate the risk to our submarines with escorted convoys in the N.W.Approaches and should have the desired effect of keeping raiders at arms length.

B. If the above alternative is agreed with I suggest the initial passage of the submarines from the Clyde to Halifax should be as desired by C.in C. Western Approaches, the submarine if considered necessary proceeding south of Ireland.

C. Submarines operated from Halifax satisfactorily last winter and in this instance either PORPOISE or CACHALOT would be detailed.
(V.A.S.1308/18 to Adty).

Your 1656/17. My 1844/27/10 states that submarines in convoy with local escort present are undesirable.

(ii) Propose (a) submarines going to Halifax proceed independently to patrol area routed well clear of escorted convoy route.

(b) Submarines acting as ocean escort for homeward bound convoy leave convoy when local escort joins and proceed independently well clear of convoy routes to a suitable rendezvous preferably in the vicinity of Butt of Lewis for escort to base.

(iii) Impending submarine patrol areas should be outside normal limit of operations of local escort. Convoys have recently been dispersing between 020° West and 025° West and it is suggested that submarine patrol area should lie between these longitudes and between latitudes 054° North and 056° North depending on convoy routes.

(iv) Homeward bound convoys with submarine ocean escort will have to be routed clear of submarine patrol zone.
(C.in C. W.A. 1337/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

Escort of M/V Groups.

Your 2018/16. It is hoped to be able to provide Escort required. There may be some delays.
(C.in C. W.A. 1349/18 to C.in C. Portsmouth.)

Northern Patrol. Withdrawal of A.M.C's and A/Ø.B.V's.

It has been decided to withdraw A.M.C's and A/Ø.B.V's from the Northern Patrol with the exception of a patrol in the Denmark Straits.

2. It is intended that the ships released from this duty should be employed to strengthen and extend the Western Patrol.

3. A meeting will be held at the Admiralty at 1500/20 to discuss the implementation of these decisions and consider the future operation and administration of these Patrol Forces.

4. It is requested that representatives from C.in C. Home Fleet and R.A.N.P. may attend.
(V.C.N.S. 1410/18 to R.A.N.P.)

Display Signals in M/L's.

Adty. 1643/14/11. Present signals often inadequate. Urge that 2-star Cartridge be retained for emergencies.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/18 to Adty).

French Warships.

Following 13 ships should be ready for service in next few weeks. LE TRIOMPHANT, LEOPARD, LA MELPOMENE, CHEVREUIL, and LA MOQUEUSE are French manned. DURAGAN Polish, BOUCLIER Dutch, and rest British.
(C.in C. W.A. 1921/18 to Capt: D. Londonderry).

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE.

At 2330/17 (D.C.0009/18) at 1130/18 (D.C.1302/18) At 2330/18 (D.C.2331/18).

R D/F Screen in North Scotland.

A.M.1727/12. Fully concur with A.C.O.S. 1625/16. (D. of L.D. 1306/18 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VERITY. My position 55° 20'N., 9° 24'W. Am proceeding to assist A/C in 55° 35'N., 9° W. (VERITY 0310/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

CLEMATIS. A/C landed. Proceed to ANDONI and escort. (C.in C. W.A. 0651/18).

Nore. Dispositions for Night 18/19. (C.in C. Nore 0800/18).

FORFAR. Cancel my 1120/17. Ship will be ready for sea p.m./20. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1125/18 to R.A.N.P.)

LANCASTER. Expected time of arrival 1415/18 B.S.T. MANSFIELD, SHERWOOD, CHESTERFIELD in company. (LANCASTER 1155/18 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Dover. Dispositions for Night 18/19. (V.A. Dover 1456/18).

Orkneys. Positions at 2000/18. (A.C.O.S. 1523/18)
Trawler Lines tonight.(A.C.O.S. 1538/18)

Western Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1609/18).

Harwich. Movement Summary. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1623/18 to SHELDRAKE).

DORDE)
QUEENWORTH.) S.D.G. Bath 1355/16. Revised completion dates are BORDE 23/11 and QUEENWORTH 28/11. (F.O.I.C. London 1705/18 to S.D.G. Bath).

L.23. Cancel my 1141/16. L.23 will not join Convoy WN.40. (A.C.O.S. 1832/18 to Adty).

DOUGLAS
SOMALI
VIMY. DOUGLAS proceed passing Switha as necessary tomorrow to rendezvous 1000/19 in Pentland Firth with SOMALI and VIMY escorting TITANIA and S.S. KYLE FISHER.

2. Relieve SOMALI and provide onward escort with VIMY to Clyde. SOMALI, enters Scapa.

3. When released DOUGLAS and VIMY return to Scapa. (F.O.C. D.F. H.F. 1851/18 to Capt: D.6.)

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Cancel my 2305/17. ACTIVE and ACHATES R/V with CHITRAL in 54° N., 21° W., at 0900/18 and escort to Clyde through 56° 30'N., 15° W., at 13 knots. (C.in C. W.A. 0123/18 to ACTIVE.)

Have not sighted Destroyer Escort. My position 54° N., 21° W., course 054° 14 knots. (CHITRAL 1200/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

It is possible ADMIRAL SCHEER may be fitted with following modifications. (V.C.N.S. 2223/18 Ad. Message. 543.A).

Amend my 0123/18 as follows. Route to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 2231/18 to CHITRAL, ACTIVE).

Icelandic Fish Carrier G.K.7.

My 0615/18. Intercepted and released. (NORTHERN REWARD 0740/18).

MALINES) ANTWERP.)

Adty. message 1327/13. To avoid bringing ships into Milford Haven strongly recommend a small Collier be sent there at once. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1121/18 to Adty).

Unknown Operation.

(1st S.L. 2350/1 to C.in C. H.F.) Suggest R.A.D. in place of C.S.18 whose movements are uncertain. (C.in C. H.F. 1722/18 to 1st S.L.)

Operation D.L.

3 Tribal Destroyers on Night 19/20. to attack German fishing vessels on banks north of Aalesund. Particulars. (C.in C. H.F. 2259/19 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Submarines.

O.24.

Proceed to first Patrol Position. (Capt: S.9. 0527/18).

WILK.

Movements. (Capt: S.9. 0857/18).

5th Submarine Flotilla.

My 1004/17 not to S.2. I do not consider it desirable to maintain a submarine patrol off Brest except in special circumstances such as the presence of an important enemy unit in or expected to arrive at Brest or if invading forces are expected to be leaving that port. Intend therefore that available submarines of 5th Flotilla

/should

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

5th Submarine Flotilla.	should patrol in English Channel in D.4 and W.2 in that order of priority. (V.A.S. 1113/18 to Adty).
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1530/18).
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0800/19. (V.A.S. 1647/18 and 1729/18).
O.23.	Expected time of arrival Tay Searched Channel 0831 (O.23 1816/18 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

British Air Activity.

A/C Torpedo Training in Firth of Forth.	A.177/18/11. Request that all concerned be warned. Particulars. (Air Ministry 1607/18).
Falmouth.	Re C.in C. W.A's request for one Falmouth Balloon Barrage Vessel to Patrol by night off St. Anthony Head. Request your concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1739/18 to Air Ministry).
Rosyth Air Patrols.	Assessments. (C.in C. Rosyth 1904/18 to Adty).
Ostend, Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, Gris Nez, Hamburg.	Attacked on night 15/16. (B.C. Intelligence Summary 547).
Off Cuxhaven.	At 0440/17 A/C attacked 3 M/V's 4-6000 tons in 53° 58'N., 8° 32'E. 2 bombs seen to burst near. (B.C.Intelligence Summary 550).

Enemy Air Activity.

NESTLEA.	(British, 4274 Tons) Hit in 50° 38' N., 10° W. (Valentia Radio 0739/18) Machine-gunned now (Plymouth W/T 0755/10 Going now. Please send assistance. (Valentia Radio 0846/18). Amended position 50° 45'N., 10° 50'W. (Plymouth W/T Recd. 0854/18) Engine room flooded. Now lowering lifeboat. (Valentia Radio 0823 and 0835/18)

/A/C

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

NESTLEA. (Contd.)

A/C reports 2 boats under sail in 50 50'N., 9 30'W., at 1625 with survivors from NESTLEA. (C.in C. W.A. 2237/18 to N.A. Dublin) Master and 15 crew landed at Swansea by Belgian fishing trawler IBIS I. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1o/5/21 D.N.I. 1037/22).

Lowestoft.

One aircraft attacked near Depot., at 0945 today with Bomb and machine-gun. One Boat exploded in grounds. One skipper and 2 civilians wounded. (Patrols, Lowestoft 1039/18 to Adty). Damage slight. Estimate £180. (Works, Shortley Gate 1707/18 to C.E. in C.)

Convoy PEWIT.

One A/C shadowing in 50° 36'N., 0° 30'W. (FERNIE 1137/18).

Convoy PILOT.

One aircraft shadowing in 51° 42'N., 1° 22'E. My course 230° , speed 12 knots. (Capt: D.21 0940/18). Enemy bombing in 51° 35'N., 1° 10'E., (CATTISTOCK 1331/18) (D.21 1334/18) 2 A/C bombing in 51° 40'N.,1° 18'E. (CATTISTOCK 1424 and 1425/18). At 1530 OPALIA (British Tanker, 6195 Tons) slightly damaged and one slight casualty. Ship proceeding Tyne instead of Methil (WESTMINSTER 1658/18) (to C.in C. Nore).
Brief report of proceedings during 18/11. CAMPBELL covered F.S.36 until F.N.37 was met. Approximately ten dive bombing attacks then took place. Consider 1 J U 87 seriously damaged and unlikely to have reached base. Several near misses on Convoy. No damage to Escort but S.S. OPALIA suffered minor damage but continued with Convoy. S.S. SNA.8 was disabled by a direct hit off S.W. Swin Light Vessel and subsequently towed by CAMPBELL to Southend. SNA.8 had 5 killed and 8 wounded.
(C.in C. Nore. 1117/19 to Adty).

OPALIA damaged.
S.N.A. 8 disabled.

BIELA.

(British, 5298 tons). Bombed in 52 026'N., 16 031'W. (Biela 1307/18) Corrected position 52 026'N., 16 010'W (Valentia Radio 1313/18). A/C disappeared in S.E. direction. (Valentia Radio 1326/18) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1445/18 to ASPHODEL, ANEMONE, LA MALDUINE)

/ANEMONE

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BIELA. (Contd.) ANEMONE in company in 53° 54'N., 16° 10'W. course South, 15 knots. (LA MALDUINE 1548/18 to C.in C. W.A.) Proceed to base. (C.in C. W.A. 1825/18 to ASPHODEL) Your 1445/18. 15 hours search unsuccessful. (LA MALOUINE 1201/19) Your 1233 and my 201. ANEMONE only met who reported finding new wreckage and oil in 52° 41'N., 15° 50'W. Swept together 30 miles to leeward. Am returning to base with ANEMONE. Expected time of arrival Lough Foyle 2100/20. (LA MALOUINE 2201/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

SARPEDON. (H.M.Trawler) Machine-gunned at 1305 by ME.109 in 085° 2½ miles East Pier. 2 men wounded. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1315/18 to V.A. Dover).

GARDENIA. Enemy Aircraft bombing in 53° 46'N., 16° 45'W. (GARDENIA 1438/18) No hits. (GARDENIA 1457/18 to Rosyth W/T).

Ramsgate. At 1335/18 2 aircraft dropped 8 H.E. bombs on Ramsgate. No Naval damage. 2 slight civilian casualties. Gas works seriously damaged, one house demolished, 20 seriously damaged, 68 slightly damaged. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1550/18 to Adty).

WITCH VOLUNTEER. Attacked by aircraft with 6 Bombs about 1900/17 in 6 miles S.W. of St. Catherines. No damage or casualties. A/C not seen. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1556/18 to Adty).

SUNK Light Vessel. Details of damage. Morale of crew still good. (C.in C. Nore 1717/18 to Adty).

ROYALLIEU)
CAPRICORNUS.) (M/S Trawlers) Both bombed by A/C while operating near Swin and South Shipwash respectively. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1832/18 to Adty).

Harwich. Between 2030 and 2050, 6 aircraft plotted approaching Harwich and finally circling Bawdsey. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2128 and 2204/18 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Tees,
Hartlepool.

Acoustic Mining suspected at entrance to Tees. Ports open, but Diesel-engine ships to be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1325/18).

Harwich.

No.23 L.V. reports several explosions S.W. of station. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1345/18 to C.in C. Nore)
7 fleet sweepers extended clearance to 1½ miles east of QZS 148 for a distance of 2½ miles north and south of 52 buoy.
Two mines found one cut in position 51° 54.9'N., 01° 41.3' E. and one destroyed dragged in sweep.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1634/18 to Adty).

Operation
ZME.2.

Intend sail from Milford Haven 1800/19, lay at 2130, and return Milford Haven 0130/20. (ADVENTURE 1345/18 to Adty).

ABILITY.

(Motor Barge) Mined and sunk at 1544 off Clacton in about 51° 45' 30" N., 1° 11' 6" E. Crew of 7 saved by Clacton lifeboat and landed at Clacton. Master both legs broken, rest shock and slight injuries. Cargo of cement. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1548/18 and N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1850/18 and 1925/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Fowey.
Par.
Charlestown.
Proposed
Sweeps.

Situation re Clay Ports Fowey Par and Charlestown. Port of Fowey definitely closed owing to mines. St. Austell Bay suspected mines position uncertain. Aircraft having been observed flying low over bay.
A Channel is being swept by Falmouth from F Buoy in QZS 180 048° to join a Channel from Fowey to Plymouth in position 3.1 miles 139° from Fowey Light. Fowey Plymouth Channel was searched once about October 25th and no mines found and none have been observed to be dropped since but this Channel is not A Q Z S. Propose after consulting R.N.O. Fowey to endeavour to sail vessels from Par and Charlestown coastwise to Chapel point at highwater, thence eastwards to join Plymouth Fowey Channel in 50° 16'.4°N., 4° 33'.6 W. thence clear of Q.Z.Y. 157. Propose also sweeping a Channel into Fowey as soon as vessels are available. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1630/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Tyne. — Parachute Mines observed to drop off Tyne. Probable time of re-opening 1200/19. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2203/18 to Adty). Tyne closed. Ships to be diverted to Blyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 2253/18 to WESTON).

Sunderland. — Port Closed. 2 Parachute Mines reported between S.1 and S.2 Buoys each side of Channel. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 2230/18 to F.O.I.C. Tyne) (C.in C. Rosyth 2357/18).

S.N.3. — Completed. (R.A.M.L. 2225/18 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Hamburg.)
Dutch Coast.) — Shipping seen on night 15/16. (H.Q.B.C. Summary 547 and 550).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.11.40.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

KLETH.

(British, 368 Tons) Sailed tug MARAUDER at 0345 to assist in 55° 40'N., 8° 40'W (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0356/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

GO AHEAD.

(LL Drifter) Sunk 3 cables W.N.W. of Garrison Point after collision with WATCHMAN during gale at Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1128/18 to Adty).

CATTISTOCK.

Have collided with Drifter LIBDOCK at 1844 by 52 Buoy. One Bulkhead buckled and leaking slightly. Drifter has slight damage but is able to steam. (CATTISTOCK 1916/18 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

18.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
S.L. Convoys,
Escorts.

Repeating C.in C. S.A., 1052/17 to C.in C. W.A., and adding:-
Additional Ocean escort not at present available but if the additional local escort can be provided it is proposed to sail S.L. and S.L. (S) convoys so that the fast passes the slow convoy about halfway between Sierra Leone and the rendezvous with local escort.
Request you remarks. C. in C. S.A. 1401/20/9 is being repeated to you.
(D.O.S. (H) 2326/18)

C.W.17 shelled

Arrived. Shelled off Dover, about 90 rounds, not accurate, estimated less than 1/4 in target area. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1837/18)

S.L.34.

SALOPIAN to N.V. at 0800/22 for inward escort to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1150/18)

O.B. 244.

E.T.A. Clyde 2100/18. VISCOUNT with Oban portion and SANDWICH Clyde portion. (WHITEHALL, 1302/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.S. 38.

Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1701/18).

F.S. 39.

Additional escort GUILLEMOT (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1615/18)

W.N. 40.

Position at 2000. (A.C.O.S. to F.O.(D) H.F., GLEANER, 2133/18)

W.N. 43.

Code "Rusty". (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1521/18).

H.X. 91.

Admty. 1531/17. Date and route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1144/18)

H.X.89.

Sailing telegram. Escort COMORIN. S.H.X., HUSKY, and ELK. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1115/18).

E.N. 28.

GAVOTTE and PIROUETTE. Additional escort HASTINGS (N.C.S.O., Methil, 2255/18).

W.S.4 B.

Sailed STRATHAIRD, OTRANTO, EMPRESS OF CANADA, VICEROY OF INDIA, escorted EDINBURGH, SAGUENAY, SKEENA, in accordance C.in C. W.A. 1331/14 and 1507/17. E.T.A. (date) (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0145/18).

Possibly reported by U-boat (D.D.I.C. 1709/18, 1720/18, 1845/18 to NORFOLK, EDINBURGH).

My 0015. Impossible to repair tube and overtake convoy. Proceeding in company with convoy until further orders or density becomes acute. (CAIRO, 0945/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ W.S.4 A.)
W.S.4 C.) .....

MOST SECRET.

18.11.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

W.S.4A.)
W.S.4C.)

Admty. 2211/15 and 1435/4. Is it now intended that W.S.4C shall accompany W.S.4A from Cape to Suez, the speed of the whole being 12 knots? (C.in C. E.I., 1504Z/18 to Admty.)

A/C co-operation.

Cancel A.M. 2115/26/10 (913 AZ.) re co-operation of a/c with Ocean convoys. Instructions contained in A.M. 1248/2 (925 AZ.) and A.M.1800/8 (980 AZ) remain in force. (D.T.D. 1614/18).

Independent sailings, Air Protection.

Admty. 1157/15. I am not aware of the reasons which led to the decision that ships of 13 knots and over should not sail in convoy.
The present number of aircraft available to A.O.C. 15 Group is barely sufficient to protect convoys and ships of and above 15 knots against the increasing menace of air attack. It is hoped that routeing independently routed ships further North may solve the problem, but if this is not the case, the increased number of independently routed ships will be more than can be protected by the aircraft now available. (C.in C. W.A. 1930/18).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

MASSILIA (Exchange of Prisoners)

French ship MASSILIA will be ready for sea p.m./18. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool to Admty., 1110/18)

Crew of French submarine, AJAX

My 1150/14/10 and your 2024/14/10. Captain of French S/M AJAX states they were informed that they would be repatriated at first opportunity. They have now been detained at Gibraltar for over one month, request I may be informed as to progress of negotiations Their continued detention here is inconvenient and involves sending all British Naval ratings for detention to U.K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1234/18 to Admty.)

Guns for Coast Defence

Your 2331/4. Details at Duala, Libreville, Port Gentil and Pointe Noire. (C.S.I. 1141/18 to Admty.)

Threat to Libreville

Your 2331/4. Para c. De Gaulle convinced sea borne attack on Libreville and/or Pointe Noire with land attack on Chad is to be expected in very near future. Question of continuing patrol. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 2017A/18 to Admty.)

ORAGE RICHEPANSE

French Trawler ORAGE sailed p.m./15/11 from St. Pierre Miquelon. French steamer RICHEPANSE sailed for Casablanca via Guadaloupe p.m.14/11 from Martinique. (N.A. Washington, 1738/18 to Admty.)

INDOCHINOIS Repatriation of Passengers

My 1415/17 and other signals. N.C.S.O. St Vincent reports. Only known ship at present Colonial (Portuguese) due St. Vincent 20/11 for St. Tome. Will endeavour to persuade Captain to call at Freetown. Most desirable that passengers of INDOCHINOIS should be repatriated by this means if possible. Informed N.C.S.O. St. Vincent that Captain could be informed that if his ship calls at Freetown for this purpose she will not be interfered with. Crew is available for INDOCHINOIS and she can be sailed for U.K. when passengers are disposed of. (C. in C., S.A., 1759/18 to Admty.)

/Volunteers.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Volunteers from CUBA INDOCHINOIS ANNE DE BRETAGNE

All officers and men of the Merchant Service Crew and passengers in CUBA and INDOCHINOIS have been interrogated in accordance with my 1853/12. Following only volunteer to serve. (details) Crew of ANNE DE BRETAGNE (my 1942/12) also interrogated, have volunteered, these are fishermen but with some experience should be available for Merchant shipping. Crew of RIDLEY now at Freetown are available for INDOCHINOIS and these with 11 ratings from INDOCHINOIS and CUBA will provide a full crew to take the ship to the U.K. Intend to send remainder of volunteers from CUBA and INDOCHINOIS and crew of ANNE DE BRETAGNE as passengers in ship. (C. in C., S.A., 2053N/18 to Admty.)

North Atlantic

RENOWN ARK ROYAL

My 1800/17. Have increased to 15 knots. My position 037° 24' N., 000° 57' E., S.O. Force H., 0600/18 to Admty.)

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL will oil in Bay on arrival about 0530/19.
Request A/S patrol in Bay be arranged. Some destroyers now in company can assist. Four will be required to screen the ships clear of the Straits subsequently. Fuel not essential. Your 1536/18. None required. (S.O.Force H., 1757/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Is it likely that weather will admit of oiling in Bay? Each requires about 800 tons. E.T.A. 0200/19. (S.O.Force H., to F.O.C.N.A. 1239/18) Your 1239. It is at your discretion to delay arrival until daylight. (A.C.N.S.(F) to S.O., H., 2021/18) Detail 4 destroyers for A/S patrol while RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are oiling and subsequently to provide screen until clear of Straits. (S.O.Force H to Capt., D. 8. 2109/18)

Your 1800/17. Intend proceeding about 0900/19 with RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, making good 20 knots if weather permits.
Destroyers will return to Gibraltar when clear of Straits unless Admty considers there is indication that presence of ADMIRAL SCHEER is connected with assault on Islands in which case destroyers and oiler will follow. (S.O.Force H.,to Adty.) (1809/18)
Your 1809/18. Attack on Islands by ADMIRAL SCHEER is not expected. (1st S.L., to S.O. Force H., 2317/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

FRANCONIA — Details of personnel embarked for transhipment at Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (F) to S.O. Force H., 1622/18) (W.O. to Govr. Gib., 0055/18)

Coal for French Ship — Your 1225/17. You should not provide fuel for French vessels. (Hd. of M., to N.C.S.O. 2136/18)

Spanish M.T.B. — Your 1240 (Requesting identity of Spanish M.T.B.) Believe German originally. HARD CHINE. Believe wooden construction but not certain. Armament. 2 bow tubes, 2 high angle machine guns with cruthed shoulder pieces. Photographs will be sent when obtainable. (S.O.I. Gibraltar to Admty.)

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS — Your 1329/17 N.C.S.O. Lisbon's 1750/17 1210/17. Only KINGSTON JACINTH now on patrol off Tagus is available to intercept these ships. (F.O.Gibraltar 1146/18)

South Atlantic

CUMBERLAND — Your 1737/15 and 1335/16 CUMBERLAND sailed from False Bay at 1100/18/11 at 20 knots for Patrol area in accordance with my 2157/17 after carrying out 8 inch firing practice (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 11152/18 to C. in C., S.A.)

Oil for Raider — (B.2.) German firms Rio de Janeiro normally consumers of diesel oil have been ordered by German Embassy to reserve proportion of their stocks for eventual supply to German raiders. (N.A.Rio de Janeiro, 1220/18 to Admty.)

A/S forces in Freetown Area — A/S forces in Freetown area considered inadequate in view of developements since Dakar, increased commitments off Free French coasts and possible use of French submarines. Propose at least 4 corvettes for more distant areas, escorts and offensive operations to be allocated to Freetown and 2 additional A/S trawlers. (C. in C., S.A. 1257/15 to Admty.)

/ADMIRAL SCHEER....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

ADMIRAL SCHEER — Should ADMIRAL SCHEER remain at large and any indication be given of likdihood of her proceeding S.A. problem of concentration arises. Alternatives suggested. (C. in C., S.A. 1329/18 to Admty.)

PENNLAND — My 1051/21 PENNLAND sailed Freetown for Jamaica 19/11 with 559 interness with military and naval guard totalling 4 officers and105 men. G.O.C.W Africa represents most important military guard be returned to Freetown at once as they are part of Sierra Leone Garrison. Propose in bunkers if necessary. (C. in ., S.A. 1413/18 to Admty amended by 1957/18)

QUEEN ELIZABETH — D. of S.T. 1648/8. Amended dates of itinary of QUEEN ELIZABETH (details) (D.O.D. (F) 1655/18 to C. in C., W.I.)

Your 0834/18. Request German preamble may be signalled in amplification (C. in C., S.A. 1631/18 to D.N.I.)

Convoy W.S. — Your 1231/17 re sailing of convoy to Cape Town instead of Durban. My 1419/17 now answere. Your 1851/14 had no indication of priority and was received 0435/16 decyphered 1000/16 the day that convoy would have sailed if unexpected delay had not occurred. (C. in C., S.A. 1036/18 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranenn

NEWCASTLE Operation "White"

Long distance air reconnaissance must be concentrated onpreventing NEWCASTLE being intercepted by superior forces. (C.N.S. 0135/18 to V.A.Malta)

Italian Units

R.A.F. report 30 ships just outside Durazzo 3 above mentioned probable warships, at 0400/18. 0530, report convoy several ships leaving harbour. Reconn at Valona at 0315/18 sighted no ships.

Air Reconnaissance 18/11.

(a) Ionian Island- nil.

(b) Syracuse 16 small and medium sized merchant vessles. Augusta, 2 destroyers 18 small merchant vessels. Cantania 1 destroyer 1 large liner 1 naval auxiliary.

At 1215 a convoy of 5 merchant vessels off Spartivento Cape Eastward and 2 merchant vessels Northbound. Messina, 2 cruisers 5 destroyers 10 small merchant vessels. Palermo, 2 cruisers, 2 merchant vessels off Cape Saint Vito. 2 destroyers Easthound. Trapani, 2 destroyers 12 small and 1 large merchant vessel.

(c) Nothing sighted between Sicily and Sardinia T.O.O. 1809/18. (V.A.Malta 1813/18 to Med. Fleet.)

Air Targets

Remarks on Admty 1831/15 re targest for air attack in Italy. (V.A.Malta 1215/18 to C. in C., Med.,) See Mediterranean Volume.

Your 1215/18, para (d) There is no intention of moving 830 Sqdn. from Malta (5th S.L. to V.A.Malta, 1537/19)

/Greek.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Greek Situation

(M.A. Athens to W.O., 0220/18) Concludes : Greek High Command, has once again appealed urgently for fighter aircraft support.

Suggested Bombing of Leghorn

Has consideration been given to bombing of oil storages at Leghorn by R.A.F. Believe there are large stocks there and there are indications that Tankers for Libya load at this port.
(C. in C., Med., 1545/18 to Admty.)

Motor Yachts

Admty 1839/15. Up to six craft are urgently required as first supply.
(C. in C., Med., 1333/18 to Admty.)

Alexandria Raid

Air raid 17/11, 1722 to 1800, two enemy aircraft, believed to have dropped mines or torpedoes off Alexandria Harbour.
No damage, no casualties. (R.A. Alexandria 1445/18)

/Spain.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Spain

Bi-weekly report. M.F.A. has gone to Berlin on invitation of Germand.
Reliably reported that Germany anxious to conclude peace agreement with France and Spain is to be asked to give up any designs on French Morocco and adjust administrative difficulties in Tangier to please French. Spain is on edge of starvation. Unless we offer wheat she may fall into German trap. (N.A.Madrid 1107/18)

Operation "Collar"

Your 1816/14. In view of complicated nature of operation Collar as set forth in my 1207/17 consider it undesirable to add to this further on account of commitments to an already over loaded programme. Ships named have speed of 15, 16 and 14½ knots respectively. Thus the addition of any of the 3 would entail reduction of speed in RAMILLIES passage thus prolonging the critical period during which RAMILLIES will be proceeding to Westward side in daylight prior to juntion with Force H. Further the presence of these ships with Force shown in D 4 (B) is an unmistakable disclosure of intentions and may thus prejudice attainment of the main object. Would prefer to await outcome of operation Collar as at present planning before undertaking further through convoy commitments. (C. in C., Med., 1141/18 to Admty.)

Air Report

Operational Summary No 161 up to 1200,18/11. Greece 17/11. Blenheims maintained standing fighter patrols over Athens. Egypt. Day 17/11. Blenheims bombed Benghazi Tobruk, Bardia and Sollum. (H.Q.R.A.F.,M.E. 1154/18)

Operation White

Your 1915/17. Did the Glenn Martin make contact with second Skua and 6 Hurricanes? (C.N.S. to V.A.Malta, 0132/18)
Your 0132. No. (N.O.I.C. Malta 0850/18.)

Italian Movements

Request you will amplify Part 2 of your 1714/17 regarding reported movements of Italian surface vessels (1st S.L. to S.O. Force H., 0133/18)

/Your 0133.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Italian Movements-Contd.

Your 0133/18. Para 2 of my 1714/17 referred to following signals V.A. Malta 1817/15, 1903/15, 1439/16, 1641/16, all addressed S.O.Force H, and C. in C., Med.'s 2011/15 addressed V.A.Malta and A.O.C. Mediterranean. These signals indicated one battleship, 7 cruisers, of which 3 were 8 inch, and destroyers were concentrating in lower Tyrrhenian Sea a.m./16 and that remaining battleships and 8 inch cruisers had not been located. (S.O.Force H., 0506/18 to Admty.)
From War Registry. The following signals quoted in S.O.Force H., 0506/18 concerning Italian Warships, were not received in Admty and have been called for:- (V.Malta's 1817/15, 1903/15, 1439/16 to Force H., 1641/16, C. in C., Mediterranean's 2011/15 to V.A.Malta.)

Loss of Hurricanes. Operation "White"

Following is amplification of my 1714/17 and V.A.Malta's 2343/17. Admty 1952/17/7. Prior to operation "Hurry" stated range of Hurricane 521 sea miles and 1820/18/7 from Admiralty stated Air Staff agreed to flying off position about seven degrees east Subsequent discussion with ARGUS led to position 007° 20' East being decided upon to cover possibility of easterly wind. For operation "White" ARGUS was asked in my 1146/5 if position 007° 30' was suitable or if position further west was acceptable. ARGUS's 2031/5 reported position 40 miles further westwards, i.e. 006° 40' East, accepted for the present provided upper air not easterly.
At time of flying off wind at 2000 feet in flying off position was 220°, 20 knots, and latest forecast received from Malta which was timed 1130/16 reported wind in Malta Channel southwest. As no further report received it was presumed there was no change.
First and second ranges therefore flown off 2 and 8 miles respectively to the eastwards of 006° 40' east approximately 400 miles from Malta. (F.O.Force H., 1147/18 to Admty)

/Air Reconn.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Reconnaissance

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/18 All times G.M.T. 0530 to 1400, Sunderland Recco ahead of NEWCASTLE (area). Nil report 0846 to 1355 Blenheim reconnaissance Corfu- Levkas- Cephalonia- Zante- Strovathi, nil report. 1014 to 1436. Syracuse- 15 M/V's- 3,000- 5,000 tons- no warships. Augusta 2 destroyers- U. 18- small M/V's - 14 Cant Z 506 seaplanes. Cantania- 1 destroyer- 1 liner 20,000 tons- 8 naval auxiliary and 3 small E vessels. 11.15- 5 M/V's 5,000 and 2 1500 tons and course 135 degs. 1115 2 M/V's 2,000 tons steering North into Straits of Messina- 2 cruisers- 5 destroyers 10 small M/V's. Palermo 2 cruisers- 2 M/V's 5 auxiliaries. 15 (miles?) North (West?) (of?) Saint Vito- 2 destroyers course 70degs. Trapani- 2 destroyers - 1 large M/V- 12 small M/V's. Marsela Bay, nil. Immense fairly accurate heavy A.A. from Trapani and Aegean Islands. Reference loss of 1 Skua and 8 Hurricanes in my "I" 106 17/11- Rome today claims shooting down 1 Blackburn Shark off Sicily, taking crew prisoners, this may account for Skua. No enemy activity over Malta today. No naval or Military items. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1830/18 to Air Min.)

Operation "White" Loss of Hurricanes.

East Indies

Operation "Rope"

(Bombardment of Dante, near Ras Hafun, Italian Somaliland) Completed. All targets appear badly damaged except 2 circular tanks one defended by 3 machine gun nests. Walrus hit but serviceable with reduced performance, no casualties. Own ship no damage or casualties. No shipping in harbour. (DORSETSHIRE 1445Z/18 to C. in C., E.I.)

SHROPSHIRE W.S. 4.B.

Will remain at Durban until required to escort W.S. 4 B from Durban to Red Sea. SHROPSHIRE will now refit at Simonstown after CORNWALL who refits early in January. (C. in C., E.I., 1508Z/18 to SHROPSHIRE)

COLOMBO

Attacked from air 070° Kismayu 60 miles. Two attacks no hits. (C. in C., E.I., 1646Z/18) My 1646/18. Time of attack 1410 G.M.T. 18/11 (C. in C., E.I., 0354/19)

S.W. 3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

S.W. 3.
ORONTES

Request which transports in W.S. 3 are to return to U.K. in addition to ORONTES (S.S.T.O. Egypt, Port Said, 1035/18) Your 0722/17. Military have details (specified) urgently required Aden and request they be embarked in ORONTES, vessel being diverted to Aden to disembark. Do you concur? Ship carrying evacuees will not require to call at Aden. (S.S.T.O. Egypt to C. in C., E.I., 1213/18)

Chief of Staff. Appointments

Re signals starting with my 1355/14/10/1939 Consider time has come when duty of Chief of Staff and N.O.I.C., Ceylon must be separated. Appointments proposed. (C. in C., E.I. to Admty., 1846/18)

U-Boat Report

Your 1906/7. Master reports traces of periscope seen for one minute by second officer at distance of one mile and then obscured by rain squall. Position 003° 13' S., 055° 14' E., at 0905, G.M.T. 6/11. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0947Z/18)

Distinguishing Signal for Merchant Ships

My 1322/13. Masters (especially neutral) have represented that it is exceedingly hard to distinguish whether or not they are being stopped or boarded by a genuine British ship.
A Norwegian Master at present at Colombo was surprised at OLE JACOBS being deceived as he has reputation of being particularly ready to resist enemy action.
Some form of signal whereby an H.M. Ship can establish her friendly character seems clearly necessary. Following ideas suggested. (C. in C., E.I., 1412Z/18 to Admty.)

China

U.S. Naval Liaison.

My 0729Z/14. I have withdrawn Commr. Wisdon from Manila to report, with concurrence of U.S. Naval Authorities and as he is urgently required for normal duties I do not propose to send him back for the present. (C. in C., China, 0301/18 to Admty.)

N.E.I. Navy

My 0213Z/17. Request may be informed of policy regarding supply of codes and cyphers to Dutch naval forces as basis for forthcoming discussion (C. in C., China 0303Z/18 to Admty.)

/DAHAE.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

China--Contd.

DANAE
DELHI

Admiralty 1805/12. Propose DANAE meets DELHI at Mauritius at end of February 1941. (C. in C., China, 0847Z/18 to C. in C., S.A)

ELLENGA

Hong Kong departure 17/11 hired transport ELLENGA for Singapore (S.O.(I) Singapore 0959/18 to Admty.)

American & West Indies

REVENGE

When making your E.T.A. include your speed and approaching course to assist such escort as can be provided. I was not informed of route. (F.O. 3.B.S. to REVENGE 1827/18)

A/S Gear

Your 1407/15. Supply of following has been shipped Halifax for U.S.S. DENEBOLA in SS NOVA SCOTIA. Do R.C.N. require replacement of equipment they have provided? (D. A/S.W., 1950/18 to F.O. 3. B.S.)

PENNLAND

My 1413/18 to Admiralty (sailing of PENNLAND with internees) is passed for information. (C. in C., S.A. 1950/18 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Trinidad
R.N.V.R.

76 M.O.1/c Trinidad's 1240/15/10. It is intended that all anti-submarine, examination and patrol craft except-- Norwegian whalers, operating from Trinidad shall be manned by Trinidad Naval Volunteer Force eventually. In view of consequent expansion strongly recommend Admty. takes over Trinidad Naval Volunteer Force on terms proposed in Governor of Trinidad telegram 570 dated 20/8 1940 addressed to Secretary of State for Colonies. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1806/18 to Admty.)

Australia

STRATHEDEN
U.S. 7.
Troop
Requirements

Left Adelaide 2130Z/17 for R.V., U.S. 7. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne, 0530Z/18 to Admty.) A.C.N.B. 1146Z/10. Australian troops requirement 10,000 per month for M.E. up to and including April 1941. (A.C.N.B., 0713Z/18) U.S. 7. Left 0900Z/18 for R.V. in Great Australian Bight. Route. Escort PERTH. (A.C.N.B.2111Z/18)

MOST SECRET

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

GERMANIA	Lisbon report states German Consul, Ponta Delgada, demanded fuel for GERMANIA which was refused by Tagus Oil Co., resulting in a threat which made Portuguese fear possibility of bombardment of oil tanks. Please supply information (Admty 1758/18 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)
ITHAKA	Arrived from Russia 17/11 3000 tons of barley. (Galatzi 1101/18)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

KILISSI COMPIEGNE ESPIGUETTE LIEUT. ST LOUBERT BIE	My 1730/8/11/40 and 2150/10/11 KILISSI sailed today. May meet escort 19/11. Probably other sailings COMPIEGNE 24/11, ESPIGUETTE 26/11, LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE 30/11. (V.A.N.P. 1630/18 to Western Patrol)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

FABIAN

British, 3059 tons, was sunk by submaine 1600 G.M.T. on 16/11 in 03.00 N., 15.00 W., (C. in C., S.A. 1054/18 to CORNWALL, PRETORIA CASTLE, DRAGON)

GONCALO VELHO (Attacked 8/11)

Your 1539/16. GONÇALO VELHO (Portuguese, 1595 tons, attacked by German Submarine 1056/8 position 052° 50' N., 017° 30° W., Submarine fired 3 shots without warning, the third hit vessel high on the port side forward. Crew took to the boats and Captain and First Officer entered Submarine, Commander of which apologized for attack but pointed out vessel within the limits of German blockade and after perusal of Ship's papers recommended course for completion of journey. (Consul, Oporto, 1800/18)

CONGONIAN

British 5065 tons DEVONSHIRE reports torpedoed by U-Boat probably German in 08.21 N., 16.12 W., at 1800/18 (C. in C., S.A. to Admty., 2129N/19)

Submarines Reported

1709 — Possible you are being shadowed by U-Boat (D.D.I.C. 1709/18, to NORFOLK, EDINBURGH)

1639 — D.F. probable U-Boat, 56° N., 11.10 W., unreliable fix, possibly reporting Convoy W.S. 4.B. (D.D.I.C. 1720/18)

1817 — My 1709/18 and 1720/13. U-Boat made further signal, probably reporting convoy, at 1817/18. (D.D.I.C. to NORFOLK, EDINBURGH)
My 1709/18, 1720/18, and 1845/18. At 2112/18 position of unknown enemy unit, probably U-Boat, was 56.45 N., 12.30 W., unreliable fix. Series of signals by this unit indicates shadowing continues. (D.D.I.C. 2145/18, to EDINBURGH, NORFOLK, HIGHLANDER)

1424 — D.F., probable U-Boat 57° N., - 57.30 N., 13° - 15° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1516/18 to A.C.O.S.)

/ 0143.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

0143 — Cancel my 2123/17 (MALLOW to return to Oban) Continue hunt. (C. in C., W.A., 0143/18, to MALLOW) Whitley Aircraft landed. If fuel permits join MALLOW in hunt for submarine., 55.40 N., 08.40 W., where ELETH torpedoed. (C. in C., W.A., to VERITY, 0655/18)

1131 — D.F., at 1 31/18, probable U-Boat. 53. 25 N 16.30 W., may be bound for Gironde. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1235/18)

2146 — 58.30 N., 23° W., Italian U-Boat, position indefinite. (D.S. 441)

East Indies

0905/6 — U-Boat report, 03.13 S., 55.14 E., (see FOREIGN STATIONS)

South Atlantic

2316 — Off W. Afrien. No position obtainable (D.S. 441)

1300 — Off Cotonou, French Dahomey 6.20 N., 2.24 E Reported on surface by aircraft course 36° (B.4.) (D.S. 441)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 in about 53° 30' N., 16° 30' W., at 1131/18, probably bound for Gironde.
Possibly 1 still in N.W. Approaches.
1 in Bay of Biscay may reach Gironde today.
German- 1 probably German was about 350 miles S.S.W. of Freetown, Sierra Leone, at 1500/16.
1 some 450 miles W. of the Gironde at 1807/17
1 was somewhere about 55° N., between 12° and 13° W., at 1806/17.
1 was in 55° 40' N., 8° 40' W at 1920/17.
1 probably in area 58° to 59° N., 15° to 18°W
1 probably in area 58° to 60° N., 19° to 20°W
1 probably in northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1258/18)

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Northern Patrol. Your 1410/18. Regret representative cannot attend. Following are my views on Northern Patrol. (C.in C. H.F. 1754/19 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE At 1130/19 (D.C. 1149/19) At 2330/19 (D.C. 2345/19).

Portsmouth A/A Defences Re Air-Raid at 1920/10. Consider protection of Copnor should be reviewed. Suggest increased number of Balloons or re-arrangement of their present lay-out to safeguard Main Line and Sewage Works. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1837/19 to Adty.)

Movements.

PUNJABI. Passing Duncansby Head at 0130, south-bound. (A.C.C.S. 0101/19)

TITANIA, SOMALI, VIMY } SOMALI and VIMY escorting TITANIA and one M/V due off May Island 0300 north-bound 9 knots (C.in C. Rosyth 0146/19 to PUNJABI).

RODNEY Escorting homeward-bound Atlantic Convoy. R.A.D. H.F. is to sail 3 Destroyers to meet her in 56° 33' N. 17° W. where she should R/V with Local Escort at 0800/22, and to escort her to Scapa passing N. and W. of Rockall Bank. C.in-C. W.A. and C.in C. Rosyth requested to arrange A/S Air Escort from as far West as possible. (C.in C. H.F. 1131/19 to R.A.D. H.F.) Request RODNEY be ordered to proceed to Scapa when local A/S Escorts join Convoy. It is not at present intended to operate RODNEY further on this service. C.in C. H.F. 1131/19. BRILLIANT, EAGLE, BULLDOG leave Port Z.A. P.M./20 for this duty. (R.A.D. H.F. 1743/19 to RODNEY)

DOUGLAS. My 2142/19. Proceed, passing Switha to R/V in Pentland Firth at 2200/19. (F.O.C. D.F. H.F. 1157/19 to DOUGLAS)

MOOLTAN. Date of completion of repairs 2/12. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1259/19 to Adty.)

/FORMIDABLE. .....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

FORMIDABLE. Intend to sail at 1500/20. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1030/21. Trials will be carried out between 20/11 and 25/11 in following area. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1347/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

BASILLA. (French, 1L,363 tons). Sailed at 1320/19 for Gibraltar for onward routeing to Toulon, routed as by Adty. 1913/28 reversed. Speed 14 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1421/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Dover. Dispositions for Night 19/20. (V.A.Dover 1503/19).

Western Channel. Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1545/19 and 1753/19).

Orkneys. Position 2000/20 (A.C.O.S. 1546/19)

Rosyth. Movements tonight. (C.in C. Rosyth 1562/19).

Portsmouth. Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1603/19)

LA MOQUEUSE. Fighter protection arranged for you daybreak 20th, till arrival Plymouth. (C.in C. W.A. 1855/19 to LA MOQUEUSE)

Operations.

NAIAD Operation. Request you signal following particulars. (A.C.N.S. H. 0021/19 to C.in C. H.F.) Your 0021/19. Reply. (C.in C. H.F. 1243/19 to Adty.) See Operations Volume.

Operation D.L. My 2259/18 para. 5. Amend instructions regarding Fishing Vessels as follows. (C.in C. H.F. 0057/19 to R.A.D.) Take MAORI and ESKIMO under your orders and proceed for Operation D.L. (R.A.D. 0329/19 to D.4.)

Iceland. Sunderland Flying Boat left for Sullum Voe. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 0805/19 to C.in C. H.F.)

Operation F.U.I. Weather permitting carry out F.U.I. tonight, M.T.B's sailing from Yarmouth as convenient before dark and returning to Felixstowe if fuel permits. (C.in C. Nore 1112/19 to BIRTHIVE).

Unknown Operation Your 1722/18. Concur. R.A.D. due London tomorrow. (C.in C. H.F. 1752/19 to 1st S.L.)

/ Straits of Dover ...

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Straits of Dover. Intend to sail M.T.B's 62 and 5 at 2335/18 to operate between Gris Nez and Calais returning to No.1 Buoy. E.T.A. Dover about 0400. (V.A. Dover 2131/19 to Adty.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Report of Engagement on 5/11 by s.s. STUREHOLM. Rescue of JERVIS BAY survivors (C.O. Atlantic Coast, Halifax 1065/19 to Adty.)

Submarines.

A/S Exercises at Plymouth. 76. My 1113/18. On completion of forthcoming patrols in zones D4 and W2, zone D4 only is to be kept filled. Remaining submarines are to be used for A/S exercises at Plymouth as arranged with C.in C. W.A. and for an occasional patrol in zone W2. UPHOLDER is to be made available for A/S exercises at Plymouth before proceeding to Portsmouth. (V.A.S. 1149/19 to S.S.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/20. (V.A.S. 1739/19 and 1822/19).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. S.A. 1A is being substituted for S.A.1E. from first light today, and extended to Norwegian Coast and Trondheim. Offensive Patrol is being extended to cover Norwegian Coast from 59° 30' N. to Lister. S.A.2 is being extended to Norwegian Coast and into the Kattegat up to 8° E. (C.in C. Rosyth 0458/19 to Adty.)
2 Blenheims leave Sumburgh at 1200 to make R/C coastwise from 62° 30' N. to 63° 20' N. to a depth of 30 miles seaward. (C.in C. Rosyth 1026/19 to COSSACK).
S.A.3 recalled (C.in C. Rosyth 1428/19 to Adty.)
Assessments (C.in C. Rosyth 1428/19 and 1900/19 to Adty.)

Vlaardingen. A.P./592/19/11. Repeat tonight 19/20 attack on Fuel Installations with available A/C of No. 53 Squadron (H.Q.C.C. 1235/19 to 16 Group, Manston).

Lorient. A.P./591/19/11. Available A/C of No. 59 Squadron to attack tonight 19/20 the Naval Dockyard and S/M's. (H.Q.C.C. 1238/19 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

/ V.L.A. Balloons ....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

V.L.A. Balloons.

Commencing about 25/11, it is proposed to fly V.L.A. Balloons by certain minesweepers operating between Solent and Thames Estuary and commencing at a slightly later date by minesweepers and certain other of H.M. Ships at other points round the coast. Until experience is gained wires will be non-lethal but it is proposed to attach lethal devices later. Propose flying below cloud level with a maximum height of 2,000 ft.
Request your concurrence and information as to height to which balloons should be close hauled during dark hours, lowest height for balloon safety being 300 feet. (Adty. 1630/19 to Air Ministry)

Rosyth.

Air Escort for 20/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1838/19).

Enemy Air Activity.

FISHPOOL (Bombed 14/11)

Drifting North-Eastwards at 1 to 2 knots. Estimated position at 0800/19, 53° 30' N. 16° 13' W. (GARDENIA 0810/19 to C.in C. W.A.)
FISHPOOL spoken at 1630 in 53° 34' N. 16° 5' W. (LA MALOUINE 1201/19 to A.C.W.A.)
Search should be continued. GARDENIA standing by. Reported in 53° 47' N. 15° 55' W. at 1800/19. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2111/19 to ASSURANCE, DILIGENT)

EGLINTON.

One A/C shadowing in 52° 2'N. 2° 42' E. (EGLINTON 0941/19).

Horsea Island.

At 2100/18 one U.X.B., probably 50 K.G., fell on Horsea Island. No inconvenience to W/T services. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1148/19 to Adty.)

LOWESTOFT. Off Tees.

Heinkel seaplane sighted at 1755/18 in position 54° 38' N. 00° 50' W. by 19C Buoy on port bow flying towards convoy. First round from LOWESTOFT burst in aircraft and rear half seen to break off and splash seen as aircraft hit water. While proceeding to search for wreckage another aircraft sighted on starboard beam of convoy and search was abandoned. Destruction corroborated by AVONMORE and DURHAM COAST. Reported this morning Tuesday by ships in convoy that second aircraft fired torpedo at 1807/18 about 300 yards from starboard column which narrowly missed one ship in each column. Ships in convoy did not open fire.
At 2113/18 convoy fired on low flying raider returning from Tyne. Commodore and ships report aircraft was hit and damaged. (LOWESTOFT, 1153/19 to Adty.)

/ SUNSPOT ....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

SUNSPOT. (M/S Trawler) Damaged by near misses at No. 5 Buoy at 1004 and leaking. Reached harbour. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1230/19 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

STAR OF PENTLAND. M/S Trawler) Bombed with near misses and machine-gunned 5 miles North of Position Z at 1258. Now reached harbour. One killed. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1554/19 to Adty.)

FONTENOY. (M/S. Trawler) Sank at 1410 /19 in 52° 31' 15" N. 1° 55' E. as a result of 2 near misses during Bombing Attack near No. 5 Buoy. No casualties. Crew landed at Yarmouth. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1710/19 to Adty.)

FOLDA. (Convoy F.S.37) (British, 1165 tons) Bombed by single A/C at 0020/19 in about 51° 47' 15" N. 1° 30' E. Considerable damage to upper deck but none to hull or engines. Arrived Harwich 1730 in tow of Tug NORMAN. 2 killed, 5 wounded. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1745/19 and 2302/19)

Convoy W.N.40. Your 1819. Convoy was attacked by aircraft in 57° 45' N. 1° 45' W. As far as is known, no ship was hit (CURACOA 1925/19 to C.in C. H.F.)

CRAIGMILLER. M/S Trawler CRAIGMILLER was damaged by near misses when bombed in Edinburgh Channel 19/11 main inlet valve fractured and much minor damage repairs being taken in hand at Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1021/22).

Mining.

Explosions off Aldeburgh. D.O. Walton reports at 0856 several Explosions heard and flashes seen 090° from Aldborough. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0900/19 to C.in C. Nore). Two Explosions seen at 0906 and 0929 in 51° 59' N. 1° 47' E. and 50° 58' 15" N. 1° 46' 15" E. No ships within 2 miles. (JAVELIN 1014/19 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 1247/19 to Adty.)

S.N.3. Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1050/19 to Adty.)

Tyne. Port open, except for Diesel-driven Vessels which can only be admitted in tow and with engines stopped. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/19 to Adty.)

/ Operation. .....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Operation. Squadron will be ready to sail A.M./23rd and loaded with mines which have been modified and are suitable for use in deep fields. Propose these should be used for forty series if attached destroyers are available, or if escort could be provided by C.in C. Home Fleet. Duration of operation 36 hours. It is most desirable to clear congestion in supply. (R.A.M.L. 1623/19 to Adty.)

Sunderland. Port open. Restrictions on Diesel-driven Vessels West of S.2 Buoy (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1639/19 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Portland. Request Fighter protection for 3 Minesweepers from 0800 to 1800/20 within 7 mile radius of 50° 22½' N. 2° 44½' W. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1739/19 to H.Q.F.C.)

ICARUS. Required for Mining operations under C.in C. Portsmouth during next moonless period. Ship to arrive Portsmouth 27/11. (V.C.N.S. 2135/19 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Floating Mine. In 55° 30' N. 8° 24' W. Hit with S.A. fire but failed to sink. (MALLOW 1100/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious Vessel. Reported by JEDMOOR in 43° 20' N. 22o W. (Valentia Radio 0319/19 to Admiral, Devonport).

Enemy Surface Unit. At 0200/19 off Norwegian Coast between Bergen and Stavanger by D/F. H.Q.C.C. requested to extend R/C to Norwegian Coast at daybreak. (D.D.I.C. 0336/19 to C.in C. H.F. and V.A.S. 0353/19 to S/M's Area A).

Norwegian Coast. R/C by Blenheims. My 1026. Search carried out in varying visibility 4 to 15 miles. Rain and low cloud. Only four very small fishing boats seen in whole area and they were widely scattered.
One M.V. of 800 tons in position 62° 17' N. 05° 12' E. at 1400, steering south. (C.in C. Rosyth 1738/19 to COSSACK).

Holmengraa. 0.23 reports Trawler Patrol near Holmengraa. Coastal shipping south of Jaederens hugs the coast protected by Trawler and A/C Patrols. (V.A.S.2207/19 to Adty.

/ M.V's .....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Continued)

M/V's. At 1043/19 two 5000 ton Cargo Vessels in 51° 59' N. 3° 20' E. heading 020°.
At 1200/19 in 52° 15' N. 3° 40' E. 3 Cargo Vessels and 3 sailing ships. A/C reports. (H.Q.B.C. 2340/19).

The Sound. My 1708/12. Following are details of clear Channel from Hallen to Malmo. (N.A. Stockholm 1839/19 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation D.4. — Capt. D.4 in COSSACK left Scapa with ESKIMO and MAORI this morning to attack German and Norwegian fishing vessels north of Aalesund tonight.

Atlantic Convoys — RODNEY is escorting homeward bound Atlantic convoy. After her return to Scapa it is not at present intended to operate her further on this service.

Norwegian shipping. — Norwegian merchant ships are refusing to leave Halifax (N.S.) without defensive armament. This is causing considerable embarrassment and delays at assembly ports, where probably neither armament nor personnel are available.
Ships in convoy are warned that enemy air activity in the North Western Approaches is rapidly increasing and any stragglers from convoys east of 22° W. run a very real risk of being sunk by air attack.
New routes are being given to ships bound to and from the U.K.

BONAVENTURE NAIAD. — BONAVENTURE arrived at Scapa p.m. today. This ship and NAIAD (see 17/11) have sustained damage from heavy weather during their recent operations.

British Air Activity.

Operations last night were restricted by bad weather.
A Blenheim of Coastal Command dropped 4 bombs on Barfleur harbour today, scoring 3 hits on jetties.

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

SUNSPOT damaged — M/S Trawler SUNSPOT was damaged by near miss bombs this morning off Lowestoft.

FONTENOY damaged — M/S Trawler FONTENOY was damaged by near miss bombs early this afternoon off Yarmouth, and sank later.

STAR OF PENTLAND attacked. — M/S Trawler STAR OF PENTLAND was bombed and machine gunned early this afternoon off Lowestoft. She arrived at Lowestoft later.

W.N.40 attacked. — Convoy W.N.40 was unsuccessfully attacked off Kinnaird Head p.m. today (D.O.R.)

S.S. FOLDA damaged. — S.S. FOLDA (1165 tons) in Convoy F.S.37 was bombed and damaged off Harwich this morning and was towed into Harwich.

CRAIGMILLER damaged. — M/S Trawler CRAIGMILLER was damaged by air attack in the Thames Estuary today.

Mining.

Four Swordfish of Coastal Command successfully dropped mines last night in the Maas Estuary.

There was an increase in enemy minelaying activities by aircraft off the East and North East coasts last night.
Explosions and flashes were seen off Aldeburgh this morning.
Ports affected:-
Tyne. Open 1507 except for diesel engined vessels which must be towed, with engines stopped.
Sunderland. Open 1630, with restrictions on diesel driven vessels.

Operations against Vichy French.

It is reported that French ships arriving at Dakar from the north nearly all bring French West African troops and war material.

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

At 0140 today the Admiralty cancelled the orders for RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to proceed to the Azores.

Operation "Collar".

SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar at 1800 today, to R.V. with SOUTHAMPTON and 3 M.T. ships for Mediterranean.

South Atlantic.

U-boats off West Africa

S.S. CITY OF PITTSBURG arrived at Freetown today with 35 survivors of S.S. KOHINUR (5168 tons) which was torpedoed at 1430/15 in position 4° 24' N. 13° 46' W.
The survivors report that a Norwegian tanker was torpedoed in the same position and C.in C. S.A. states this is probably HAVDOR (7614 tons). The submarine is reported by Chief Officer of KOHINUR to have been Italian.
Survivors of FABIAN (torpedoed 18/11 about 300 miles S.S.W. of Freetown) were landed at Freetown today. The master, who went aboard the U-boat, reports that she was definitely German.
It would therefore seem possible that two U-boats, one German and one Italian or French, are operating in this area.

Sweep for raider.

HERMES left the Cape today for 16° S. 40° W. to search for raider with CUMBERLAND (who left Simonstown yesterday for St. Helena) after which both ships will return to Freetown.
There were indications that a raider was in position 29° S. 30' W. (1200 miles East of the Plate at 2000 today.

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations. Wellington tonight bombed Bari Docks, but all bombs fell in the southeast outskirts of the town. In the distance, Taranto put up a heavy barrage. There were 4 air raids on Alexandria last night. No Service damage or casualties occurred.

One enemy plane last night dropped 2 bombs amongst a convoy assembled in Great Bitter Lake and machine gunned 3 ships, later dropping 4 incendiary bombs near Geneefa. No damage or casualties occurred.

YORK YORK arrived at Suda Bay at noon today from Port Said, and left at 1515 for Piraeus.

Operation "White". S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, ARGUS, DESPATCH and 8 destroyers arrived at Gibraltar between 0345 and 0900 today.

NEWCASTLE carrying R.A.F. personnel arrived at Malta this morning with defects. She was unsuccessfully attacked off Pantellaria by a U-boat earlier in the day.

East Indies.

Air Operations. R.A.F. attacked Massawa last night and Assab several times between 1940/18 and 0635/19.

Aden was attacked last night, but no damage was caused. Aden and Sheikh Othman were attacked today. No damage is reported. This was the first low attack that has been made on Aden.

COLOMBO was unsuccessfully attacked again this afternoon off Kismayu by two formations of 3 aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

MAY DAY. — Intercept at 0647 G.M.T. from unknown station. Require assistance. (North Foreland Radio. Recd. 1010/9)

M/V. off Harwich — Tug NORMAN sailed to assistance of M/V. 225° Sunk Light Vessel 3 miles. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1132/19 to Adty.)

Lifeboat. — In 51° 20' N. 8° 34' W., course 220°, speed 10 knots. No sign of other boats. A/C report. (A/C. (?) Duty A. 1445/19 to No.15 (R) H.Q.)

MAID ROSE. — (British, 1117 tons) Sailed Barry 1135/5 for Plymouth. Not since heard of. (C.in C. W.A. 1625/19 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
H.X.89. Date and route. Escort COMORIN returns to Halifax. (D.T.D., 1657/19)

P.S.37. 7 ships lost convoy approx. 0200. 3 of these turned into Harwich remainder proceeding down Swin. Bombed by a/c (see Air). F.O.I.C. Harwich 2302/19).

S.L. 54. ARAKARA to join for passage to Liverpool. (D.O.D.(H) to ESPERANCE BAY, 1540/19 and to ARAKARA, 1559/19).

H.X.88. ROSEWOOD to be detached in about 35° W. and proceed direct to Reykjavik. (D.T.D. to AUSONIA, 1623/19).

H.X.90. Left. Ocean escort MALOJA, returning to Halifax, (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1313/19)

FRESNO CITY (ex H.X.84) Arrival of survivors at Halifax 18/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1049/19) (See America and West Indies).

STUREHOLM (ex H.X.84.) Swedish. Report on rescue of JERVIS BAY survivors. Number of STUREHOLM officers and crew refused to sail after reaching Halifax and are being paid off. Hoped to complete crew from other H.X.84 survivors and sail STUREHOLM perhaps in H.X.91. No disciplinary action contemplated and no awards recommended. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1055/19) (See HOME COMMANDS, Operations).

MAIDAN (ex H.X.84) Now presumed to have been sunk by raider. (D.S. 442).

H.N.41. To join in Pentlands 1100/21. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1103/19)

C.E.17. Intend to sail from St. Helens 21/11. (C.in C. Nore, 1506/19)

S.L. 56 Slow. Greek IOANNIS FRANGOS did not sail owing to refusal of crew. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1509/19).

O.G.46 (non-elastic). Sailed 1429/19. Escort DEPTFORD, WALKER, CALDWELL, CALENDULA, CANDYTUFT, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1606/19).

S.L.Convoys. Admty. 2326/18. Propose that system of 2 S.L. Convoys be adopted for trial as it is not possible to forecast exactly what difficulties will be encountered in providing the additional local escort. (C.in C. W.A., 1609/19 to Admty.)

O.B. 245. British TREGARRELL and SOMME, stragglers from O.B. 245, arrived, unable to keep up with convoy. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1639/19)

/S.L. 54 .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

S.L. 54. Your 1159/18 re SALOPIAN. S.L.54 will be approx. 24 hours late at R.V. with local escort due weather conditions. (REPERANCE BAY, 1740/19 to F.O.C. N.F.)

F.N., F.S., Forecast of sailingn F.S.43-49, F.N.41-48. (C.in C. Rosyth 1961/19).

O.B. Admty. 1666/17 and my 1308/18 (S/M escort for O.B. convoys). PORPOISE detailed. (V.A.S. 2321/19).

W.N. Admty. 1741/18. Sailing dates from Clyde of W.N. 42, 43, 44, 45. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1002/19).

VIKING Norwegian, Ocean route. (D.T.D.1702/19 to N.C.S.O. Avonmouth).

Troop Convoys. W.S.4B. My 1331/14. Use your discretion as to whether to alter course for position (C). An alteration after dark may be advisable to put off shadowers. (C.in C. W.A. to EDINBURGH, 1119/19) S/M reports. (see U-Boat Campaign).

DEVONSHIRE to relieve NORFOLK DEVONSHIRE to R.V. with W.S.4B in 35° N., 31° W., at 1200 zone plus 2, 23/11. If necessary, EDINBURGH to order new R.V. Convoy is routed through 40° N., 32° W., and 30° N., 30° W. When DEVONSHIRE joins convoy, NORFOLK is to return to Scapa, proceeding east of Azores. (D.O.D.(F) 1507/19)

WINDSOR CASTLE, PASTEUR. WINDSOR CASTLE with Gibraltarians and PASTEUR with Naval and R.A.F. personnel will be ready to sail for Halifax from Clyde. (date).
C.in C. W.A. to provide A/S escort and to sail ships to R/V with LACONIA on her leaving H.X.90.
F.O.C.N.F. to arrange for CATHAY to accompany ships to R/V with LACONIA and thence to proceed as ordered by C.in C. S.A.
LACONIA will escort WINDSOR CASTLE to Halifax.
PASTEUR is to proceed independently as soon as destroyer escort breaks off.
Admiralty will provide route.
(D.O.D. (M) 2212/19 amended 1140/20).

Norwegian Shipping, Armament. Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission, New York, are giving Norg. masters in U.S.A. ports following declaration(begins) We hereby declare that S.S. (Name of ship) is not going to sail from Halifax to England before the ship has the same equipment of weapons as English ships. We further declare that the ship has no

/ permission ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Norwegian Shipping. Armament.

permission to leave Halifax for England before she is fully manned according to regulations, (ends).
Whilst this is a method of persuading Norg. ships to leave U.S.A. it is causing considerable embarrassment and delays at assembly ports where probably neither armament not personnel are available though every possible effort is made to assist Norg. masters. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1536/19, to Admty.)

Routes.

Cancel my 1146/8/8, 1648/7/9, 2358/9/9, 1245/16/9, 155/6/10, 1838/23/10, 1729/28/10, 1837/31/10, 2304/6/11.

(A) All independently sailed ships are to be routed as in my 1157/15. Those sailing to or from South Atlantic or West African ports are to keep out of sight to the Eastward of Cape Verde Islands and the Azores and to the Westward of a line joining 10 degs. N. 20 degs. W. and 52 degs. N. 22 degs. W.

(B) All convoys are routed by the Admiralty.

(C) Enemy air activity in the North Western Approaches is rapidly increasing and any stragglers from convoy East of Longitude 22 degs. W. run a very real risk of being sunk by air attack.
The area of greatest air danger in this locality is considered to be within a radius of 650 miles from Brest.
The routes given to ships in envelope C must give a high degree of consideration to the above though it is not desired unduly to extend the time spent in the submarine danger zone. After passing through the final position of the standard route, homeward bound ships in convoy must have a final route to 10 degs. W. well to the North of the convoy route.
The above principles also apply to the routes given to ships in outward bound convoys for use in case of separation.

(D) Independently sailed ships homeward bound for East Coast Ports are to call at Oban. Reference N.C.S.I. 139 paragraph 1 add Oban. (D.T.D. 1612/19).

/ Independent Sailings, Air Protection. ....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Independent Sailings, Air Protection.

Your 1930/18. Reasons for this decision were, as follows:-
(a) In view of heavy losses in 9-knot convoys by U-Boat attack in N.W. Approaches it was considered that ships of 13 knots and over would find greater safety by making use of their speed than by inclusion in convoy.
(b) Present time seemed a suitable moment to start sailing these ships independently because in the long winter nights ahead reasonably fast independent ships should have considerable immunity from attack whereas the slow convoys are most vulnerable in the dark hours.
(c) Ministry of Shipping has been pressing for more economical use of our mercantile tonnage.
Your para. 2. This is appreciated but it is hoped that for some time to come independently routed ships to and from North America and West Indies will be reasonably free from air attack.
(D.T.D. 1902/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration". See North Atlantic.

Guns for Coast Defence. Re guns from RESOLUTION until guns from COURBET and PARIS are available. (D. of L.D. 1227/19 to C.in C. S.A.).

WINNIPEG, DJENNE. Inform French N.A. that unless delayed WINNIPEG will be sailed 21/11 and DJENNE on 23/11. (Head of M. 1319/19 to N.A. Madrid).

MASSILIA. (French M.V. 1536 tons). If ready to be sailed for Toulon today by reverse of route given in my 1913/28/10. Safe conduct has been obtained. (D.O.D. (H). to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1041/19). 1320/19 sailed Gibraltar for outward routeing to Toulon. Route in accordance with Admiralty 1913/28 reversed. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1421/19 to F.O.C. N.A.)

Martinique. Situation, and relations of French with U.S.A. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1731/19 - see FOREIGN STATIONS, America and West Indies.)

Intelligence, Dakar. Following from Navy Department. From Dakar. French ship ASIE arrived from Morocco 16/11. French ships EL MANSURO sailed for Casablanca and Ville de Havre for Madagascar 16/11 and French S.S. CHANTILLY arrived from Casablanca 17/11. Such vessels when arriving from North nearly all bring French West African troops and war material to extend of several thousand tons. This material will not fall into German hands, say Government officials. According to Governor General there will be brought back France 100,000 French West African troops in the course of 12 months to come. All are not to be discharged according to rumour. (N.A. Washington, 1254/19 to Admty.)

Casablanca. LAUDERBEC. Following from Navy Department. From Casablanca. There are in port at present time in addition to JEAN BART, 8 torpedo boats and/or destroyers, one old battleship, 4 submarines (?), 2 auxiliary cruisers and 3 trawlers. Oxide of iron and Broxide of Manganese ore are being loaded by steamer LAUDERBEC which is due to sail for Marseilles on 18/11 or 19/11. It is believed this cargo is for Germany or Italy. (N.A. Washington, 1300/19).

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Operation Collar. — Cancel my 1800/17. Operation Collar is to be carried out according to plan. (D.O.D. (P) 0140/19 to S.O. Force H).

Operation Ration. — Admty. 2327/19/10, 0100/24, and 1835/25. Prepare to carry out Operation Ration on 20/11 but do not act without further instructions. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be maintained in a condition to proceed to sea if necessary. Pending receipt of orders to carry out Operation Ration, Force H may be at four hours' notice for steam. (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0150/19) Your 0150. Destroyer situation will not permit of Ration being carried out on 20/11 without interfering with Collar (F.O.C.N.A. 1014/19). Your 0150/19. Request immediate consideration be given to postponement of Ration. Reasons. (S.O. Force H., to Admty., 1113/19).

Operations Collar Ration — I have proposed to C.in C. Mediterranean that M.T. ships and Corvettes in Collar should be routed partly along North Africa Coast for reasons given in my 0405/19. If Ration is carried out this may not be practicable on account of possible French retaliation.
Unless it is essential to commence operation against French immediately I urge most strongly that everything possible should be done to avoid adding contingent difficulties of executing Collar which C.in C. Med. has described as a complicated operation.
(S.O. Force H, 1115/19 to Admty.)

Operations Ration Collar — Your 1014/19 and S.O. Force H 1115/19. Consequent on decision of H.M.G. Operation RATION is to be put into effect once either on 21/11 or if there is no convoy passing on 21/11 then on 22/11.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN must if possible be at short notice for steam on 21/11 and 22/11. Operation COLLAR must not be delayed. The forces employed on Operation RATION are at your discretion.
(1st S.L. 2110/19 to F.O.C. N.A.)

DESPATCH, NEWCASTLE — Admty. 2235/14. DESPATCH is to remain at Gibraltar until return of NEWCASTLE. C.in C. W.A. requested to inform addressees of DESPATCH's destination. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1226/19 to F.O.C. N.A.)

Cancel my 1226/19 to C.in C. A. and W.I. and substitute my 2235/14. DESPATCH is to remain at Gibraltar until return of NEWCASTLE. C.in C. A. and W.I. requested to inform addresses of DESPATCH's destination. (A.C.N.S.(F), 1605/19 to F.O.C.N.A.) Admiralty 1605/19.

/ Destination ....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Destination of DESPATCH is Bermuda. (C. in C. A. and W.I. 1251/19 to F.O.C. N.A.)

FRANCONIA. Pass instructions to FRANCONIA Admty. 1622/19. Each unit for passage east of Gibraltar is to be divided equally between MANCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON. (S.O.Force H, 0514/19 to F.O.C. 8 C.S.)

DUNCAN, FORESTER Sail 1400/19 to R/V with you daylight 20/11. Will pass through 037° 35' N., 013° 10' W. at 1500 zone minus one 20/11 steering 300°. (F.O.C. N.A. 1148/19 to MANCHESTER).

German Blockade Runners. Ungraded report received Germans intend sailing 2 Armed M.V's from Biscay port to port in Latin America loaded with good to demonstrate ineffectiveness of blockade. (C.in C. W.A. 1301/19 to EDINBURGH).

Unknown Destroyer At 0700/19 passed Sagres from S.E. going N., destroyer of unknown nationality. (N.A. Lisbon, 1627/19).

URSULA My 1240/15. Trials still unsatisfactory. Consider inadvisable repair at Gibraltar and that ship should return U.K. (A.S., Gibraltar, 1820/19, to Admty).

Italian S/M's Tangier. My 2340/9. Work appears continuing on S/M "A", but no outward sign repairs on S/M "B". Latter possibly waiting for "A" so that they can escape together. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2045/19).

Gibraltar. Situation Report. One Martin recco. a/c flew over Rock at 1138/19 but was driven off by A/A fire. (Govr. Gib., 2305/19).

South Atlantic.

FURIOUS. In view of urgency of air reinforcements in Middle East delays at Freetown and on passage should be reduced to the minimum. (V.C.N.S., 1156/19 to FURIOUS).

S/M Report. See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

KOHINUR. Torpedoed (C.in C. S.A., 2129 N/19) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, 15/11.

HAVBOR Torpedoed (C.in C. S.A. 2129 N/19) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, 15/11.

CONGONIAN. Torpedoed (C.in C. S.A., 2129 N/19) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, 18/11.

/ HERMES CUMBERLAND .....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

HERMES
CUMBERLAND

Simonstown departure 1635/19 HERMES for patrol and Freetown in accordance C.in C. S.A. 0955/19. To R.V. with CUMBERLAND (date).
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1703Z/19) Order to HERMES. (C.in C. S.A. 0955/19).

Enemy Unit.

D.F. at 1911 G.M.T., enemy unit, probably surface vessel, position south of 15° N. and possibly in vicinity of the Equator. (D.C., 2330/19 0001/20)
Admty. 2330/19 and 0001/20. Further bearings suggest position may be 32.30 S., 29° 00 W. (C.in C. S.A. 0219/20 to R.A.S.A.D.)

DEVONSHIRE

Left Freetown 0700/19 to relieve NORFOLK escorting W.S.4B. (D.O.R.)

DRAGON.

Arrived at Freetown 0930/19. (D.O.R.)

Mediterranean.

Operation "Collar".

Your 1207/17. Proposals (details). (S.O. Force H 0405/19 to C.in C. Med.) Your 0405/19. Concur in proposals (1) to (7). Para. (8) (corvettes to show French colours if approached by Italian a/c and simulate minesweeping) is worth trying. Para. (9) (submarine concentration to block southern exit of Tyrrhenean Sea) not feasible with number of S/M's available. Para. (10), no Force H destroyers required except HOTSPUR. (C.in C. Med., 1919/19 to S.O. Force H).

Convoy
A.N.7.

Arrived Piraeus 1200/19. (Athens, 1239/19, to Admty.)

VIKING.

Admty. 1733/16. Greek Govt. have requisitioned VIKING. Will be under Danish flag with all Greek crew. Hoped to obtain use of her for ourselves. (N.A., Athens, 1940/19 to Admty.)

Oilers.

Submissions for THORSHOLM, and other oilers. (N.O.I.C. Port Said to C.in C. Med., 2004/19) Amended (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1701/20)

Alexandria
Air Raids.

Air Raids Alexandria 18-19/11.
First, 2017 to 2046 one aircraft one large bomb or mine and some small ones to seaward.
Second, 2302 to 2330 2 aircraft two bombs near Seagull camp 6 in lake Mariut.
Third, 0015 to 0050 2 or 3 aircraft 7 bombs Abuquir.

/ Fourth .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Alexandria Air Raids. (contd.)

Fourth, 0235 to 0314 2 aircraft 9 bombs 43 Egyptians killed 75 wounded. Attempt at low bombing on harbour but bombs jettisoned demolishing 15 houses when barrage opened up. All low bombing attacks. (Alexandria, 1336/19 to C.in C. Med.)

Suez Air Raid.

18th November 2030 one enemy plane dropped two bombs amongst convoy assembled in Great Bitter Lake and machine gunned three ships later dropped four incendiary bombs near GEBEIFA. No damage. No casualties. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1941/19).

Movements.

Movement Summary 169. Submarines. YORK left Port Said for Piraeus. JUNO escorting ETHIOPIA left Port Said for Suda Bay. 7th C.S. operating in Aegean, etc. (C.in C. Med., 0043/19).

UPRIGHT

Your 1132/18. Would prefer UPRIGHT to patrol as ordered. Suggest extra men and books should be transferred to MANCHESTER or SOUTHAMPTON for passage to E. Mediterranean. Transfer to Malta will be arranged as convenient. (C.in C. Med., to F.O.C.N.A. 1003/19).

NEWCASTLE defects, attacked by S/M.

NEWCASTLE on arrival reported starboard forward boiler with several tubes defective and port outer condenser leaking. Ship can proceed about 22 knots. Do not consider it safe for NEWCASTLE to sail by herself under these conditions. Propose retaining her and effecting such repairs as are possible to enable her to sail westwards with units during operation Collar. NEWCASTLE reports she was attacked by a submarine off Pantellaria in bright moonlight. (V.A. Malta 1337/19).
Your 1337 approved. (C.in C. Med., 1930/19)

Spanish and Italian Trade.

V. Consul, Cartagena, reports CASTILLO CUELLAR suspended voyages to Genoa because of loss of FRANCA FASSIO. Master states Italian seaborne trade including coastal non-existent except schooners. (Madrid, 1400/19, to Admty.)

A/C Sqdns.

Your 1233/16. It is hoped that you will re-allocate personnel as you think fit, keeping Admty. informed. (5 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1302/19).

Air Reconnaissance.

My 2229/17. Air reconnaissance of Spezia not carried out 19/11, weather unfavourable. Reconnaissance of Pola and Trieste is possible from Malta under selected weather conditions but not as

/ routine ....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Air Reconnaissance. (contd.) routine requirement. Reconnaissance will be arranged accordingly. (V.A. Malta, 1911/19).

U-Boats. Left Rhodes (Capt. S.1 1503/19) See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

830 Air Sqdn. Your 1215/18. No intention of moving 830 Sqdn. from Malta. (5 S.L. 1537/19 to V.A., Malta).

Air Report. Combined services report Malta up to 1700/19. All times G.M.T. 0527-0906 3 Swordfish detailed on patrol to escort NEWCASTLE into Grand Harbour. No enemy activity encountered. 0740-1545 Sunderland R.C. Corfu - Levkas - Cephalonia - Zante - Strovathi to report enemy naval movements. No activity observed. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/19).

BUCEGI. Your 1701/7. Roumanian Govt. have been informed that crew may be repatriated. High Commissioner, Palestine, is being instructed to requisition ship for Min. of Shipping when crew have been disposed of. (Ad. of M., 1837/19 to C.in C. Med.)

Air Report. Operational Summary No. 162 up to 1200/19 1445/18 Durazzo, 1 large 3 medium 36 small ships, 0505/18 Valona, 2 large 6 medium ships 5 destroyers. Blenheims maintained standing fighter patrol over Athens. Reconnaissances made of Maddalena, Bir El Gobi Bardia and Dignaish areas. 2 Sunderlands operating from Suda Bay reconnoitred eastern Ionian Seas. 21 enemy aircraft dropped 80 heavy bombs on Siwa wounding 3 British soldiers. Material damage slight. Night 18/19 Nov.

Alexandria Raid. enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria, no service damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1152/19).

Air Attack on Bari. Tonight 1 Wellington aimed 1750 pounds G.P. bombs and 240 pounds incendiaries from 8,000 feet on Bari Docks but seen to explode in south east outskirts of town. Moderate heavy and light A.A. fairly accurate. Heavy barrage at Taranto in distance. 1 ship with lights 4 miles off Bari. (H.Q. Med. 2310/19.)

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Air Attack on COLOMBO.

My 1646/18 time of attack 1419/18 G.M.T. C.in C. E.I. 0354/19 to Admiralty).
My 0534/16. COLOMBO now patrolling off Kismayu was attacked from air 070° Kismayu 60 miles at 1412/18 G.M.T. No hits. Reports enemy A/C shadowing her at 0327/19 G.M.T. 1° 54' S., 43° 25' E. (C.in C. E.I. 0604Z/19 to A.O.C. East Africa) after being shadowed during day was bombed at 1450/19 G.M.T. Two attacks by formations of 3 A/C. No damage. Position 000° 35' S., 042° 35' E. (C.in C. E.I., 1903Z/19 to Admiralty).

BENAVON

(M.V. British 5872 tons). Your 0801/15. N.O.I.C. Mauritius reports STRAAT MALACCA (Dutch) at 0930Z/17 passed through several hundred bundles of raw rubber around 024° 28' S., 053° 08' E. Suggest this might be from BENAVON. Request remarks. (C.in C. E.I. 0548 Z/19 to Capt. on Staff, Singapore).

DALIA.

My 1202/2 British ship DALIA arrived Kilindini under her own steam (C.in C. E.I., 0814Z/19 to Admiralty).

Convoy E.3.9.

Sailing telegram. Escort CLIVE, GRIMSBY. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1703/19).

Air Reports, Assab Raids.

Intelligence summary No. 160 and operational summary for 24 hours ending 1500/19/11 6 night and 6 day sorties despatched to attack Assab. 1940, to 0835. Details. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1944/19).

China.

Repatriees.

Your 1819/16, (re officers and men for Lourenco Marques) Numbers travelling, and E.T.A. (Cdre, Malaya, to Admty., 0837Z/19).

America and West Indies.

FRESNO CITY.

MOUNT TAYGETOS arrived Halifax 18/11. Has on board 12 officers and men picked up 9/11, 051° 17' North 030° 09' West from FRESNO CITY. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1948/19).

S/M O.15.

Netherlands Submarine O.15 refitting at (? Halifax) In view of complete absence of facilities for practical training for A/S vessels on this station, request consideration be given to retention of this submarine if service can be

/ dispensed ....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

S/M O.15. (contd.) dispensed with in Home waters. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1121/19 to Admty.)

U.S. Navy and Warship Movements. Admiral Anderson has represented to me importance of Navy Department being kept acquainted with disposition of H.M.Ships in West Indies and on west coast of America in vicinity of Panama Canal to enable them to dispose U.S. Ships in neutrality zone to best advantage. If approved request movements may be telegraphed to me. (N.A. Washington, 1719/19 to Admty.)

Martinique French Relations with U.S.A. Reports from Admiral Robert at Martinique and Captain Benech, French N.A. at Washington addressed French Admiralty were examined at Bermuda. Following general conclusions emerged.
(1) French Caribbean Sea Colonies Economic Policy must undergo drastic revision owing to trade being practically confined to Western Hemisphere. Colonies are almost entirely dependent on good will of United States for supplies.
(2) Apparent that policy of U.S. is to maintain existing control by Vichy of these Colonies thereby avoiding necessity for implementing Pan American agreement.
(3) Owing to (1) U.S. Government can exert great pressure to insist on internment of French Warships as price of economic protection.
(4) Cordial relations appear to exist between Admiral Greenslade and Admiral Robert.
(5) Since his recent return from Martinique Admiral Greenslade has taken steps to arrange for exports from U.S. to French West Indies of indispensable commodities except heavy oil for warships.
(6) Seems accepted policy of U.S. Government that internal trouble in French West Indies would necessitate U.S. Intervention to restore order and Benech has been informed to this effect.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1731/19 to Admty.)

New Zealand.

U.S. Visit, Xmas Island. Navy Department informs me that they propose sending a unit of Pacific Fleet to visit Christmas Island; I gather this is in connection with plan of C.in C. Pacific for trans-Pacific flights Navy Dept. are anxious to keep this secret and to avoid employing usual procedure for visits of foreign ships. Request approval. (N.A. Washington 1760/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GERMANIA. Your 1756/18. No truth in report of threat. Order to supply oil fuel was given by Captain of Port only on receipt of telegram from Minister of Marine, Lisbon, ordering him to supply amount he considered necessary. (N.O.I.C. Ponta Delgada, 1152/19 to Admty.)

SPEZIA (reported sunk.) My 1945/16. Spanish member of crew who was saved says that SPEZIA was torpedoed off Cape Creus, apparently about 8/11 (D.4.). (Madrid, 1655/19). SPEZIA was last known to be carrying fruit from Spanish ports to Genoa. (D.S. 440).

ABQUITAS My 1535/9 Brazilian Naval authorities inform that ABQUITAS will be escorted from Ceara to Rio de Janeiro by minelayer CARIOCA Date at present uncertain but after 25/11. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1550/19).

Ships in Brazil. (A.1.) My 1229/18 THEODORE WILLE making determined efforts to obtain 250 tons of Diesel Oil through agency of smaller German firms. Oil companies obstructing. (B.2.) German Ambassador at Rio de Janeiro on 16/11 asked Minister for Foreign Affairs for permission for German ships in Brazil to sail. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1623/19).

HELGOLAND. As no report has been received since ship left Puerto Colombia on 28/10 it must be assumed that she has escaped my patrol and is probably now on passage to an enemy port. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1241/19 to Admty.)

ORINOCO, IDARWALD, RHEIN. Navy Dept. report. From Tampico. ORINOCO readily repairable. Some reports indicate that she and IDARWALD and RHEIN will attempt again at any time. (N.A. Washington, 1249/19).

ITHAKA Left for Russia (Naval, Galatz, 1045/19)
SALZBURG Left for Istanbul " " "

RIO GRANDE Following from Navy Department. German ship RIO GRANDE which left Rio de Janeiro 31/10 is reported to be equipped with an 80-ton derrick forward heavy crane fenders and large quantity of Diesel oil in drums as well as other cargo. She is also fitted with short wave W/T. Character of ship and cargo indicates her intention to act as a supply ship to German raiders. (N.A. Washington, 1729/19).

/ Vigo tankers ....

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

Vigo tankers. Report received C. two that German tankers here are taking further provisions on board. Bad weather has possibly delayed earlier departure. 1830/19.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

KILISSI My 1305/7 KILISSI sailed from Setubal 0677/19. See also my 1205/9 and my 1919/9. (F.O.C.N.A. 1328/19 to N.A.Stn.)

CANTAL. Navy Dept. report from Martinique French CANTAL arrived Fort de France lightly laden 4/11. (N.A. Washington, 1240/19).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.11.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

GONCALO VELHO (Stopped 8/11)

On 8/11 Portuguese merchant vessel GONCALO VELHO proceeding from Ireland to Oporto was ordered to stop, 52.50 N., 17.30 W., by German submarine. After three shots had been fired at ship and she had been inspected she was ordered to proceed on course 270 degrees until reached 20 degrees West and carried on to west of this meridian then steered south until reaching 46.30° N. (N.A. Lisbon 1627/19)

SAINT GERMAIN (Torpedoed 17/11)
VERONICA (Torpedoed 17/11)

Searching in 55.30 N., 08.42 W., (MALLOW, 1100/19) My 0440/18 and 1030/18, 55.20 N., 08.40 W., wreckage and lifebuoys from Norwegian ship VERONICA sighted. (MALLOW 1215/19) My 1215. In 55.30 N., 08.52 W., passing through pit props and wreckage from ST. GERMAIN identified by Master. Feared ST. GERMAIN now sunk. (MALLOW 1310/19)

SSSS made by unknown station at 1659/19. Nothing further heard (Scapa W/T, 1702/19)

Mediterranean

H.M.S. NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE reports she was attacked by S/M off Pantellaria in bright moonlight. (V.A.Malta, 1337/19) See also Mediterranean.

South Atlantic

CONGONIAN

Ship torpedoed by submarine in 08.21 N., 16.12 W., at 1700/18 (C. in C., S.A. 2108/19 to G.B.M.S. 6 A and 9) Presumably refers to CONGONIAN- see 18/11.

FABIAN (Torpedoed 16/11)

Survivors landed Freetown 19/11. Master reports U-Boat definitely German. (D.O.R. 20/11)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.11.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0437 My 2145/18. D.F. bearings of enemy U-Boat in your vicinity indicate you are still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 0437/19 to NORFOLK, etc.)

0811 From number of signals made in N.W.Approaches possible that a U-Boat is damaged D.F. fixes between 1639/18 and 2112/18 gave positions in area 56° to 57° N., 10.30 to 13° W. Subsequent bearings give no fix. Last signal received at 0811/19 (D.D.I.C. 1 1022/19)

0942 Aircraft reports over enemy submarine, 56.28 N., 19.24 W., at 0942. (C. in C., W.A. 1055/19 and 1130/19 to EDINBURGH, NORFOLK etc.,) See S/M's Attacked.

South Atlantic

Following from aircraft GAERX. S/M on surface course 36° true bearing making Cotonou 20 kilometres away at 1300 hours. (Via Freetown W/T 0015/19 to C.S.I., DELHI, MILFORD) Repeated to MILFORD (C. in C., S.A. 0341N/19)

Mediterranean

2 Italian U-Boats left Rhodes for Cape Santa Maria de Leuca 17/11 and 18/11 routed through 036° 00', 21° 00' (Capt S.I. to OTUS, REGULUS, 1503/19)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian 1 probably about 50° N., 12° W., proceeding to Gironde.
1 in area 58° to 59° N., 20° to 23° W.,
1 more in N.W. Approaches about 60° N., West of 10° W.

German 1 off West Africa Southward of Sierra Leone
1 was 450' W. of Gironde at 1807/17. No later report.
1 in area 56° to 57° N., 10° 30' W., to 13° W.
1 in 56° 28' N., 19° 24' W., at 0942/19.
1 in area57° N., 12° to 14° W.,
1 in area 57° to 58° N., 19° to 21° W½
1 about 60° 21° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.11.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

0933 — By aircraft of 210 Sqdn. 56. 28 N., 19.24 W Depth charge dropped 50 ft ahead of surface wake, failed to explode. Second attack impracticable as sea too rough for anything to be seen. (H.Q. 15 group, no T.O.O./19) (C. in C., W.A. 1055/19, 1130/19, 1155/19)

1335 — Have made attack 055° 19' 12" N., 005° 58' 40" W., Mull of Kintyre 095°, 6.3 miles, fired 3 charges, 4 explosions, oil on the surface, no other evidence. Returning to escort W.N. 41. (KING SOL 1335/19)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E-Boat Sunk — Early this morning CAMPBELL and GARTH whilst on patrol sighted and sank an E-Boat off Southwold.

Invasion Preparations — An analysis of shipping and barge activities in the Low Countries and France from 8/9 to 4/11 is contained in Daily Summary of Intelligence of German Preparations for Invasion of & raids on U.K., Report No 174. The general conclusion is that the peak period was from 14 to 13 September. The sudden change in the grouping of shipping and barges which took place after 23/9 seems a clear indication of a change of plan.

M.T.B. Patrols — Two M.T.B's last night operated between Gris Nez and Calais last night. Nothing was sighted. Three M.T.B's from Dover carried out a sweep off the Texel last night. No enemy forces were encountered.

Operation D.L. — At 1800 Capt D. 4. was in position 61° N., 1° 30' W., There was nothing to report.

U-Boats — There are indications that there may be as many as 11 U-Boats in the North Western Approaches north of 55° N., The majority of them appear to be spread on 56° N.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Last night, docks and shipyards were attacked at Bremerhaven, Hamburg, Kiel and Holtenau. Bad weather prevented offensive operations today.

Coastal Command — Six Blenheims bombed Lorient last night.

Morning patrols and certain afternoon patrols were cancelled today on account of bad weather. A special A/S patrol, centred 180 miles west of Brest, was flown today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S. 38

Convoy F.S. 38 was attacked but not hit this morning in the Thames Estuary.

Tug ASSURANCE

Tug ASSURANCE was attacked this morning in 53° 50' N., 15° 15' W., while searching for FISHPOOL (bombed 14/11) No damage is reported.

CHESAPEAKE

The British Tanker CHESAPEAKE was bombed 10 miles E of the Lizard this morning. No structural damage is reported, though there were some casualties.

Mining

ADVENTURE last night laid mines south of St. George's Channel.

Two destroyers which were due to leave for Operation "Collar" (replacing FOXHOUND and FORTUNE which left Gibraltar today to R.V. with FURIOUS and escort her to Freetown) are mined in at Plymouth.

Ports Closed Fowey, Penzance, Newlyn, Kyles of Bute, De-gaussing range at Belfast.
Diesel ships may only enter Tyne and Sunderland in tow.
Milford Haven and Plymouth were closed this evening.

No enemy aircraft were identified mine-laying last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD on passage to R.V. with SOUTHAMPTON and 3 M.T. ships tomorrow, today intercepted Brazilian SS SIQUEIRA CAMPOS (6456 tons) carrying German war material to Brazil, and sent her in to Gibraltar under armed guard.

South Atlantic

To deal with U-Boat activity off Freetown two Sunderlands are being withdrawn from the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean

Air Operations

There was an air raid on Alexandria this morning. No damage occurred. Blenheims attacked Bardia and Tobruk last night.

Today, 6 Gladiators and 9 Hurricanes escorting a Lysander over Sidi Barrani were intercepted by about 60 C.R. 42 A/C's 10 of which attacked the Lysander. The Gladiators shot down 6 and possibly 3 more; and the Hurricanes engaged the remaining 50 and shot down one before the fight was broken off.

Two Wellingtons attacked the docks at Durazzo last night and one the aerodrome at Tirana where the hangers were set on fire.

Blenheims today maintained a standing fighter patrol over Athens.

Bombardment of Maktila

Tonight APHIS, assisted by air cooperation successfully bombarded Maktila Camp (East of Sidi Barrani) for an hour. Ineffective shore fire was encountered and APHIS suffered no damage or casualties.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Blenheims last night again attacked Assab causing large fires.

One enemy aircraft attacked Aden at 0030 today. A Gladiator shot it down. No damage or casualties occurred.

Australia

Raider Reported by SS MAIMOA

SS MAIMOA reports being chased by a raider in position 31° 50' S., 100° 21' E., in the Southern Indian Ocean (750 miles West of Fremantle) at 0830Z today.
CANBERRA proceeded at 1430Z to locate the raider.

GOORAGAI Sunk

R.A.N. Mine sweeper GOORANGAI was sunk in collision off Port Phillip today.

MOST SECRET

20.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 0630/20 (D.C. 0700/20) At 1130/20 (D.C. 1142/20) At 2330/20. (D.C. 2359/20)

M.N.B.D.O. Coast Defence Equipment — Instructions have been given to Home Forces that this Equipment is to be withdrawn by mid- December. (Daconst 4 1940/20 to Admty.)

Movements

TULIP — Estimated pass May Island 0200/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 0040/20)

R
RODNEY — R.A.D., H.F. 1743/19. BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, BULLDOG to raise steam and proceed as soon as possible. A new R/V may be signalled. (C. in C., H.F., 1041/20 to BRILLIANT)

In view of Admty. 0745/20/11 and U-Boat dispositions in Atlantic, can RODNEY leave Convoy on 25° W., proceed to 60° N., 25° W., and thence R/V with Destroyer Screen in 60° N., 17° W at 0800/22 B.S.T. (C. in C., H.F. 1053/20 to Admty.)

Your 1053/20. Approved. (A.C.N.S. M. 1201/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

RODNEY is to comply with my 1053/20. BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, BULLDOG and ELECTRA to R/V with RODNEY in 60° N., 17° W., at 0800/22. R.A.D.HF. requested to sail ELECTRA to comply. (C. in C., 1238/20 to BRILLIANT)

BRADFORD, BROADWATER — Intend to sail for Scapa at 1630/20. (C. in C., W.A. 1043/20 to A.C.O.S.)

ENCHANTRESS — 11 hours early in 55° 15' N., 23° 36' W., (ENCHANTRESS 1301/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

Orkneys — Trawler lines occupied. (A.C.O.S. 1536/20)

Portsmouth — Night movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1603/20)

Nore and Harwich — Movements Summary. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1711/20)

Rosyth — Movements Summary (C. in C., Rosyth 1514/20) Arrivals and departures (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Straits of Dover

My 2131/19. M.T.B's carried out sweep. Nothing sighted. (V.A.Dover 0950/20 to Admty.)

Operation "Collar"

2 ships of 5th D.F. to be sailed for Gibraltar forthwith, proceeding south of Ireland. Operation sails from Gibraltar 24/11. (V.C.N.S. 1058/20 to C. in C., W.A.) Was there any reason why these should not have been sailed before commencement of enemy mining operations? (1st S.L. 2055/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

E-Boat S.38 Sunk

My 0225/20. Enemy E-Boat was sighted at 0158 distance 2 miles in position 3 miles North of 54 E Buoy. CAMPBELL and GARTH were in single line ahead and fire was quickly opened with close range weapons. Enemy attempted to escape making smoke but was chased at high speed. At 0225 when on fire and badly damaged E-Boat capsized and sank. 17 survivors were picked up the majority of whom are casualties. (D. 21. 1110/20 to C. in C., Nore.)

Operation D.L.

Nothing to be reported. My estimated position 61° N., 1° 30' W., course 220° speed 12 knots. (Capt D. 4. 1800/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

TALISMAN

Proceed to Patrol Area (Capt S. 2. 0001/20 to TALISMAN)

WILK

Proceed into Patrol Zone (Capt S.9. 0941/20 to WILK) Cancel my 0941/20. Proceed, diving by day, to patrol within 20 miles radius of 60° 8' N., 4° 12' E. (Capt. S. 9. 1133/20 to WILK)

O.24.

Proceed to patrol within 20 miles of 59° N 3° 50' E., (Capt S. 9. 1211/20 to O.24)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/21 (V.A.S. 1651/20)

/URSULA.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

URSULA — N.S. Dockyard Gibraltar 1820/19. Risk of passage to U.K. or Malta with only one main generator available is considered unacceptable unless absolutely essential. Suggest docking is necessary only during short periods that hull cover plate is off for actual removal and replacement of armature. Understand spare armature has already been despatched in TRENTINO. If replacement of new generator definitely cannot be undertaken at Gibraltar I agree that U.K. is preferable to Malta. (V.A.S. 1947/20 to Admty.)

British Air Activity

LOOSE — Cancelled, owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A. 0815/20 to H.Q.F.C.)

Patrols — S.A.I.E. cancelled, owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1034/21 to Admty)
S.A.2. Northern Track. Assessment (C. in C., Rosyth 1754/20 to Admty)

Falmouth. Proposed single Balloon Patrol — Admty. 1739/18. Suggest this would not afford protection and would weaken existing static barrage. Recommend consideration of V.L.A. protection. (H.Q.B.C. 1230/20 to Admty) Request your views on H.Q.B.C. 1230/20. (Air Ministry 1740/20 to Admty.)

Lorient — Available aircraft of 59 Squadron to repeat attack on Lorient tonight 20/21. (H.Q. C.C. 1315/20)

Vlaardingen — Available aircraft of 206 Squadron to attack Fuel Installations at Vlaardingen tonight 20/21 with 250 lb. bombs and Incendiary Bombs. (H.Q.C.C. 1316/20)

Coastal Batteries — Available aircraft of 53 Squadron to attack Gun Positions between Cape Gris Nez and Ambleteuse tonight 20/21. (H.Q.C.C. 1317/20)

V.L.A. Balloons — Admty. 1630/19. Concur. But consider Balloons should be close hauled to lowest height during dark hours owing to training commitments over Northern Irish Sea area. (H.Q.F.T.C. 1600/20 to Air Ministry)

/Tour 1630/.....

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HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Your 1630/19. Concur subject to my being informed in advance of time when ships flying these balloons will be operating in or passing through the Solent between Spithead and Southampton water. This is necessary in order to safeguard aircraft using Lee Aerodrome. The height of Balloons at night does not effect R.A.N.A.S.
(R.A.N.A.S. 1710/20 to Admty.)

Your proposal to fly V.L.A. Balloons from certain ships from about 25/11 agreed subject to your concurrence in proposals contained in Air Ministry letter S3616/36 of 14/11. Balloons should be close hauled to 300' or lower during hours of darkness and when cloud base is below 1,000 feet and/or visibility less than 1,500 yards.
(Air Ministry 1831/20 to Admty.)

Air Escorts

For 21/11 (C. in C., Rosyth 1802/20)

Enemy Air Activity

FISHPOOL (Bombed 14/11)

Observed position at 0800, 54° N., 15° 8'
(GARDENIA 0830/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1327/20 to DILIGENT, ASSURANCE)
Aircraft report sighting FISHPOOL at 1620 in 54° 22' N., 13° 30' W., (C. in C., W.A. 2353/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Convoy ARENA

One aircraft shadowing in 52° 2' 1° 45' E., (VIMIERA 0900/20) Help in 51° 39' N., 1° 17' E. Course 270°, speed 6 knots. (WESTON 1139/20) Fighter aircraft being sent. (Plymouth W/T 1151/20) 2 Junkers 87. No hits. (WESTON 1215/20 to C. in C., Nore)

NESTLEA

N.A. Dublin reports one lifeboat with 22 survivors landed at Ballycotton, Ireland. Second lifeboat containing Master still missing and reported damaged above water-line. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0943 and 1534/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

/ASSURANCE.....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

ASSURANCE (Tug) Attacked by aircraft in 53° 50' N., 15° 15' W., (Lands End Radio 0947/20) Are you in company (Admiral Plymouth 1153/20 to GARDENIA) Have searched vicinity indicated. No met. (GARDENIA 1346/20 to C. in C., W.A.) Keep specially good look out for attack by S/M or A/C. (C. in C., W.A. 1349/20 to GARDENIA)

CHESAPEAKE (British Tanker, 8955 tons) Bombed in 097° Lizard 10 miles. (Lands End 1028/20)

Mining

ICARUS Admty 2135/19. Request you arrange ICARUS ready to sail p.m./25 (C. in C., Nore 1104/20 to F.O.Humber)

Dover No routine sweeping to noon Wednesday 20th November owing to weather.
In Q.Z.X. 220 Western limit of swept area has been extended to 17 and a half cables west of the line No 1. to no Lr. Butt.
One explosive cutter found. Mines are still suspected to eastward of channel.
(V.A.Dover 1646/20 to Admty.)

Operation Z.M.E. 3. Position, direction and length. To be carried out on Night 22/23 or as soon after as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1720/20 to C. in C W.A.)

Milford Haven Closed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 2105/20 to Admty.)

Plymouth Closed, owing to mines. (C. in C., W.A. 2210/20)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Bordeaux Rochefort	R/C at 1430/19. (P.I.U. 0030/20 to N.I.D.)
Yarmouth	Special intelligence indicates E-Boats again active off Yarmouth. (C. in C., Nore 0143/20 to Capt. D. 21) One E-Boat bearing 160°, course 180°. My position 52° 21' N., 2° 2' E., (D. 21 0204/20) E-Boat sunk. Am picking up survivors, (Capt. D.21 0224/20 to C. in C., Nore) See Operations.
Enemy Shipping between Jaederena and the Naze	Your 2207/19. Does this proceed by day or by night. (C. in C., H.F. 1023/20 to V.A.S) By day only (V.A.S 1436/20 to C. in C., H.F)
Baltic	Traffic through the Sound, and shipping and Shipbuilding at Gdynia, Copenhagen and Vasa. (N.A. Stockholm 1722/19 to D.N.I.)
Enemy Unit	At 1938 B.S.T. between Stavanger and Lister Probably the same ship as at 1306/8 in my 1814/8/11. (D.D.I.C. 2236/20)
E-Boat S.38	My 0225/20. Intelligence obtained from Prisoners as to bases, construction and armament. (D. 21 1600/20 to D.N.I.)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CASWELL — (M/S Trawler). ST .MELLONS to proceed at once to take her in tow. Position at 0930 South Shipwash. To bring her into Harwich. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/20 to ST. MELLONS)

CORNEL — (British, 353 tons) Engines broken down 2 miles off Trevose Head. Requires help or Tug. (Lands End 1011/20) Drifting towards shore. (Lands End 1035/20) Distress traffic ended. (Lands End 1159/20)

NAIAD / BONAVENTURE — Both sustained damage in heavy weather and have other defects. Main items as follows. (C. in C., H.F. 1536 and 1801/20 to Admty) BONAVENTURE can be received forthwith. (AS Rosyth, 2135/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

TEDDY — (Norwegian Tanker, 6748 tons) Left Abadan 25/10, due Singapore 11/11. No arrived. (D.S. 442)

SIREHEI — (Norwegian, 3888 tons) Left Montevideo 23/10 due Freetown 11/11. Not arrived (D.S. 442)

MORAN — (British, 5389 tons) Left Jamaica 26/10, due Liverpool 10/11. Not arrived. (D.S. 442)

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

S.L. 56	BULOLO to act as ocean escort (C. in C., S.A. 1327/20)
C.E. 17	Re time of sailing. (C. in C., Portsmouth to C. in C., Nore, re latter's 1506/20) (C. in C., Nore, to C. in C., Portsmouth 1456/20)
STAR OF INDIA	Your 1125/19. Destination, Portsmouth. (C. in C.,P., 1436/20 to Cdre., WESTERN ISLES)
6 M/V's	N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1013/20 re sailing of 6 M.V's. Detail 3 A/S trawlers as escort (C. in C., W.A. 1444/20 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)
O.B. 245	SCIMITAR unable to join. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1459/20)
W.N. 42	Escort trawlers BLACKFLY, MORRIS DANCE (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1502/20)
S.L. 54	SALOPIAN has left patrol to R.V. with S.L. 54 at 0800 G.M.T./22 (P.O.C.N.A. 1532/20)
W.N. 41	Position (PAYNTER to A.C.O.S. 1620/20) Route (PAYNTER 1740/20)
E.N. 28	Position (A.C.O.S. to Admty 1642/20)
E.N. 29	Route (C. in C., Rosyth 1741/20 to C. in C., W.A., etc., Submarine H. 28 and CURACOA in company. (C. in C., Rosyth 1514/20)
O.B. 246	Time of R.V. Belfast, Clyde to Oban ships now 1130/21. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1645/20) Now 1415/21. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2355/20) Details (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1541/20)
H.X. 85	If convoy is up to time leave tomorrow at 0900 reporting noon position of convoy when well clear. (C. in C., W.A. to RAJPUTNA, 1731/20)
H.X. 85) H.X. 86)	Owing to local escorts being delayed by bad weather, imperative these convoys should not be early at R.V. (C. in C., W.A. to RAJPUTANA, VOLTAIRE, 1811/20) H.X. 86 Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 2235/20 to CASTLETON, WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT HIBISCUS, CYCLAMEN, RHODODENDRON)
S.C. 13	C. in C., A.W.I's 2039/15 to ABERDEEN. Should S.C. 13 be sailed without ocean escort. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1206/20 to Admty.)

/S.C. 11.....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

S.C. 11. Route. Escort ENCHANTRESS (C. in C., W.A. 1111/20, to OTTAWA, ST LAURENT, SAGUENAY, SKEENA)

H.X. 85. Meet (C. in C., W.A. 2329/20 to MALCOLM, SABRE, SARDONYX, HELIOTROPE)

H.X. 88. Admty tanker DAVILA, due Milford Haven, to proceed to Portsmouth. Tanker SOCONY, due Milford Haven to proceed to Brixham. (D.O.D. (H) 1726/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

W.N. 40. Arrived with ARAB, ST. ZENO, GLEANER and CURACOA (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)

F.N. 37. Arrived with WESTMINSTER and WALLACE (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)

F.S. 40. Left with EGRET and WATCHMAN (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)

E.N. 29. Left with INDIAN STAR, FANDANGO, JASON, CURACOA (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)

O.B. 244 Amended route. (C. in C., W.A., 1429/20 to CASTLETON, WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, HIBISCUS, CYCLAMEN, RHODODENDRON)

S.L.S. 56 Date and route (D.T.D. 1416/20 to C. in C., W.A. and F.O.C.N.P)

O.B. 246 (non-Elastic) sailed 1455/20, escort AMBUSCADE, GERANIUM (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1530/20)

O.O. 46. Following from Commodore in PINTO. Have only 5 ships out of 17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 1909/2. F.O.i/c Cardiff 010/68 of 3/11, propose that in event of Milford Haven being closed to shipping, Dundrum Bay be used as Assembly port for ships from Bristol Channel ports which would proceed thither independently. (C. in C., W.A. 1346/20 to Admty.)

F.S. 40. F.S. 40 anticipated sailings. Diesel ships whilst entering and leaving ports Tyne Middlesborough and Sunderland must proceed in tow with engines stopped. (C. in C., Rosyth 1825/20 to EGRET, WATCHMAN)

F.S. 41. Sails. 0030/21 (C. in C., Rosyth 1514/20)

/S.L.Convoys....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

S.L.Convoys — Your 1052/17. Concur that system of two S.L. convoys be adopted for trial. Additional ocean escort is not at present available but in order that S.L.S. convoys may obtain as much cover as possible S.L.S convoys should arrive at the R/V with local escorts 48 hours after S.L.Convoys. The above should commence with S.L. 57. (D.T.D. 1637/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

Independent Sailings — Until further notice all Merchant ships of 13 knots and over bound to or from the U.K. are to be routed so as to pass to the Northward of position 56° N., 20° W and are to be sailed independently. Ships proceeding independently to U.K. from North America and West Indies are to be routed North of Rockall. It is essential that routes should be widely dispersed and that no focal points are established. Admty 1255/9 is cancelled (D.T.D. 1825/20)

OSLOFJORD — Information received from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa that OSLOFJORD will be sailing s.m/21 independently for Clyde. Minister of National Defence and Chief of General Staff are taking passage in her. (D.O.D. (H) 2219/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

Troop Convoys

CITY OF CANTERBURY
GLOUCESTER CASTLE — My 1311/16, CITY OF CANTERBURY will not now sail on 23/11.
GLOUCESTER CASTLE from Liverpool to Freetown will sail in her place.
CATHAY will not be available to sail as escort on 23/11.
F.O.C.N.P. requested to detail an A.M.C. to take the place of CATHAY and to arrange for this A.M.C. to be allotted a Southerly patrol area. (D.O.D. (H) 1207/20)

Your 1207/20. Owners of GLOUCESTER CASTLE report speed 10 knots only. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1733/20)

CATHAY
ORDUNA
ADDA
FORTHBANK — Admty's 1311/16. Route for CATHAY, ORDUNA, ADDA and FORTHBANK. From position D., ORDUNA leave for Bermuda, other to Freetown. (C. in C., W.A. 1301/20 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

/S.W. 3.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

S.W. 3. See FOREIGN STATIONS, Mediterranean.

WINDSOR CASTLE
PASTEUR

My 1123/17. Request early confirmation of proposed arrangements also advise proposals for loading WINDSOR CASTLE homeward voyage. Request same loading information for PASTEUR Propose embarking at least 200 troops in each ship. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1327/20)

MOST SECRET.

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville Patrol.

Admiralty 2331/14 and your 2017/18. Patrol must be maintained. Position will be discussed with De Gaulle on arrival U.K. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0013/20 to F.O. 1st C.S.)

WINNIPEG, DJENNE.

Intend sailing WINNIPEG 1400/21, DJENNE 1600/23 both for Gibraltar for onward routing Toulon in accordance with Admiralty 1913/28.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0943/20 to Adty).

CUBA.

Your 2053/18. Request detailed report minimum crew required. (Head of M. 1641/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

CANADA.
MASSILIA.

Are proceeding Gibraltar with safe conduct from British and German Governments. (C.in C. W.A. 1843/20).

French Warships and M.V's.

Governor Bathurst states reliable agent just returned from Dakar reports 4 warships and 5 submarines due to leave Dakar a.m.20/11. Destination unknown. Have no definite information whether RICHELIEU included. 13 Germans reported Marine H.Q. Dakar. 3 merchant ships from Casablanca discharging ammunition believed arrived 12th. Reliability of Agent unknown at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 2351/20 to Admiralty).

Libreville Patrol.

Your 0013/20. De Gaulle agrees that patrol need not be continuously maintained but forces should be maintained in area. De Gaulle confirms appearance of single Vichy ship or small force off Libreville or Port Gentil would not now have much effect. Larger expedition would be necessary to achieve any success. I do not consider there is any particular indication that this is likely at the moment. Some Naval activity reported recently in Ivory Coast and Dahomey ports, probably employed escorting merchant ships with supplies. Consider Force now in Cameroons and Gaboon area should remain for present but continuous patrol not necessary.
(C.in C. S.A. 2139/20 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Ships from Martinique.

Your 1738/18 (re French ships sailing from Martinique) will you repeat similar message to F.O.C.N.A. (D.N.I. 1249/20 to N.A. Washington).

Operation Ration.

Your 2110/19 and 1048/20. Intend carrying out operation Ration to westward longitude 4° W 21/11 with DESPATCH and 1 destroyer. No other destroyers available. ROYAL SOVEREIGN at 4 hours notice and Force H at short notice in harbour but no screen available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1320/20 to Adty). My 1320/20 Report on ROYAL SOVEREIGN's boilers. Considered necessary be examined before going sea. Anticipate completion by p.m. 22/11. Propose keeping ROYAL SOVEREIGN at 12 hours notice. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850/20 to Adty).

Operation Collar.

Adty. 2231/31/10 and 1605/19. Propose including DESPATCH in Force H for operation Collar. (S.O.Force H, 1629/20 to Admiralty)(Approved D.O.D.(F) 0020/21).

SEQUEIRA CAMPOS.

Brazilian. Intercepted 035° 30'N., 011° 30'W., Cargo admitted German War material for Brazil. Sent into Gibraltar under armed guard. E.T.A. 2300/21. (SHEFFIELD, 1633/20 to Adty).

FRANCONIA.

570 bags for Alexandria placed in FRANCONIA in error. Request may be transferred to MANCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON. (D.O.D.(F), 1642/20 to F.O.C.N.A.).

SALVIA.

Report position course speed and E.T.A. at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 1813/20 to SALVIA).

Your 1813/20. My position course and speed are 045° 46' N., 015° 03' W., 158° 13 e.t.a. Gibraltar noon B.S.T. 23/11. SALVIA, GLOXINIA, HYACINTH in company. (PEONY, 1930/20 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARGUS loss of A/C in operation "White".

You are to convene a board of enquiry with yourself as President to investigate the carrying out of operation "White" and loss of Aircraft which took off from ARGUS for Malta. Instructions.
(1st S.L. 1915/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Admiralty 1915/20. Following telegram addressed Air Ministry repeated for information (Begins) From information available here the following points emerge (details). (Sec. to 1st S.L. 1916/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

CHR. KNUDSEN (Norwegian M.V. 4904 tons) THORSHAVN. (Norwegian M.V. 6869 tons).

CHR. KNUDSEN due Durban 15/11 from U.K. THORSHAVN due Capetown 16/11 from Colombo, both not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0935B/20 to Adty).

Convoy S.L.58.

Admiralty 1311/16 and N.O.I.C. Belfast 1259/19. As MOOLTON cannot arrive Freetown before 16/12 no escort available for S.L.58 unless CATHAY is sailed to arrive 6/12 or A.M.C. is provided. (C.in C. S.A. 1105N/20 to Adty).

Troop Convoy. W.S.4.A.

C.in C. S.A. 1419/17 Admiralty 1851/14 N.O.I.C. Simontown 2150/16 to be regarded as cancelled. NIEUW HOLLAND and DUNERA due Durban 22/11 and 24/11 respectively to be sailed for Capetown for embarking troops ex SCYTHIA N.O.I.C. Durban to report date and time of arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1204B/20 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

Your 1419N/17, N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1204B/20. Subject to your concurrence PRETORIA CASTLE and SCYTHIA are to leave convoy dawn 27/11 and proceed Capetown. SCYTHIA to be sailed again to rejoin convoy off Cape. Remainder of convoy with CORNWALL will proceed direct Durban. N.O.I.C's 1903/16 para. B. Tanker ANCYLUS can be divered to arrive Durban 27/11.

/About

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Troop Convoy. W.S.4.A. (Contd). About 20,000 tons fuel oil and 1000 tons diesel oil have been reserved with Anglo-Iranian for this convoy and W.S.4.B. (D.O.D.(F) 2215/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

DELHI. Admiralty 1805/12. C.in C. China proposes exchanging at Mauritius (date) Arrangements for refit. (C.in C. S.A. 1257/20 to DELHI).

Enemy Raider. Adty. 2330/19 and 0001/20. Bearing from Cupar, Flowerdown, Ascension and Freetown suggests position may be 32.30 S., 29.00 W. (C.in C. S.A. to R.A.S.A.D.) (0219/20).

My 2330/19 and 0001/20. Further bearings from Penang, Simonstown and Durban indicate raider was in vicinity of 29° S., 28.30 W. at 1911/19 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0745/20 to C.in C. S.A. etc.)

U/Boat. Your 1955/19. Further bearings indicate 10.30 N., 22 W. (D.D.I.C. 0833/20 to C.in C. S.A.)
Request for 2 Sunderlands. (C.N.S. 1310/20). See Mediterranean.

FURIOUS. 2 destroyers to be sailed to join FURIOUS and escort her to Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1048/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1048/20. Owing to presence of Submarines in vicinity of Freetown these destroyers are required to escort FURIOUS into Freetown and then on to Takoradi. Position for R/V. (D.O.D.(F) 1358/20 to F.O.C.N.A. and FURIOUS).

Admiralty 1048/20. FOXHOUND and FORTUNE detailed and ordered to pass through 021° 40'N., 018° 50'W., at 0800 zone minus one 23/11 steering 215° . Amend R/V as necessary. (F.O.C.N.A. 1330/20 to FURIOUS).

My 1352/20 para.3 to FORTUNE and FOXHOUND only and Admiralty 1358/20. Amend R/V to 026° 00'N., 015° 40'W at 1200 zone plus one 23/11. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/20 to FORTUNE and FOXHOUND). Gibraltar departure 1600/20/11 FORTUNE, FOXHOUND in accordance with Admiralty 1048/20 W.E.B.35. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1650/20 to Admiralty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Flying Boat Clyde.

Clyde leaving Freetown 21/11 has on board De Gaulle and A.D.C. going to U.K. General Spears ill and unable travel. Request give all assistance. Spears hopes to go by next flying boat 23/11. (C.in C. S.A. 2107/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Takoradi.

Intructions to A/C. (Air Ministry 1756/20 to O.C. Stripe c/o FURIOUS).

Mediterranean.

Sunderlands.

U/Boats are troublesome in Freetown area. Could you possibly spare 2 Sunderlands? (C.N.S. to C.in C. Med. 1310/20). Adty. 1310/20. Would seriously reduce already inadequate reconnaissances, but as they are urgentl required I will do without them. Presume Air Ministry will arrange with A.O.C.in C. M.E. (C.in C. Med., 1523/20)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN Operation Collar.

As air reconnaissance indicates considerable concentration of Italian surface ships in Western Basin, consider that inclusion of ROYAL SOVEREIGN in Force H for Operation Collar is advisable. She can maintain 16 knots continuously and 18 knots for brief periods and can be ready for this service 24/11. (S.O. Force H. to C.in C. Med., 1310/20).

UPRIGHT.

Your 1132/18 and my 1807/16. It is intended to recall UPRIGHT from patrol in time for her to reach Malta at daylight 15th day after leaving Gibraltar. (Capt: S.1, 1347/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Bombs. Alexandria.

Asking for further details re 2231/17 (D.M.S. to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1614/20)

Oil Fire Defence.

Details of defence adopted in U.K. have been forwarded to you by D. of L.D. You are authorised to proceed with installation of such defences at Malta in collaboration with military authorities as you see fit. (F.C.N.S. to V.A. Malta. 1718/20).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal Control.

Your 1129/5. Reply. Danger of Vichy support developing fully realised. (Head of M. to S.B.N.O. Suez. 1925/20).

French Fleet Alexandria.

Your 1201/16/10, and related signals. How much of the £22,000 is wages and how much maintenance?. (Hd. of M, 2349/20 to C.in C. Med.)

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid 0445 to 0500. 2 bombs. no damage. no casualties. (R.A. Alexandria 1103/20).

Corvettes Operation Collar.

A.T.2351/17. The early arrival of these corvettes in Eastern Mediterranean is of great importance.

2. If they are not passed through with operation COLLAR their arrival will be unnacceptably deferred and their passage will entail a further large scale operation by both Mediterranean Fleet and Force H.

3. Propose therefore that COLLAR should be deferred one or even two days to enable corvettes to take part. (C.in C. Med. 0815/20 to Adty).

Your 0815/20. On receipt of reply to A.T.1813/20, Collar may be postponed at your discretion. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. Med. 2053/20).

Malta Supplies.

Your 1131/17/10 and V.... Malta's 2309/21/10. The policy that reserve of supplies at Malta should be built up as soon as practicable to 8 months stock falling to 6 months between convoys has been approved by H.M. (D. of Stores, 1204/20 to C.in C. Med.)

Convoy. S.W.3.

Intend Vice Admiral F.A.Sommerville to be Commodore and Read Admiral R.A. Plowden to be Vice Commodore of S.W.3. sailing from Suez 23/11. No other fast convoy for United Kingdom at present in view. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1306/20 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

EOCENE.
Roumanian Oil.

Your tel. 372 to F.O. Provided argument between Turks and Roumanian's mentioned in para.3 can be relied upon it is clearly in our interests to ship as much (?oil) as possible from Roumania and therefore transfer of S.S. EOCENE to Turkey flag is recommended as giving us a reasonable chance of achieving this object.
(C.in C. Med. 1717/20 to Ambassadore, Angora.)

Oilers.

Your 2004/19 approved. On completion of discharge BRITISH SAILOR is to be sailed in next southbound convoy to Admiralty orders.
(C.in C. Med. 1839/20 to N.O.I.C. Port Said).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Fish Factory. Target. — Intercepted P.L. W/T from Ras Alula Mogadishu states Fish Factory has completed 1000 cases (? Tinned Fish) for internal consumption. Is this legitimate target for bombardment and bombing. (C.in C. E.I. 0432Z/20 to Admiralty).
Your 0432Z/20. Yes. (D.O.D.(F) 2237/20 to C.in C. East Indies).

Convoy B.N.10. — Leaves Bombay 0030Z/27/11. R/V with Force Q, 014° 12', 063° 1100Z/1/12 steering 255°. Route. (F.O.C. R.I.N., 0622Z/20 to C.in C. E.O.)

SOUTHAMPTON W.S.4B. — Admiralty 2211/15 para. 3(c). Is 8/12 date of arrival SOUTHAMPTON at Mombasa. Does not appear W.S.4B could reach there by then. (C.in C. E.I., 0602Z/20 to Admiralty).

CAPETOWN CRICKET. — Your 0730/20. After fuelling and provisioning at Penang CAPETOWN to proceed to Mancowry. Minimum crew to be left in CRICKET, but arrangements for raising steam later on without help from escorting ship. (C.in C. E.I. 1726Z/20 to CAPETOWN)

Convoy W.S.4A. — Decision whether shall sail as a whole from Cape with 2 escorts, or in two parts with single escorts will be taken nearer date of sailing, dependent on raider situation. A.M.C. can be accepted as second escort. (D.O.D.(F) 2252/20 to C.in C. E.I.)

STANPARK — My 0702/18, re sailing of convoy. Destination of STANPARK Port Sudan and not Suez. (N.O.S.O. Aden, 0602/20).

Air Report. — Attack on supply depot 2 bombs falling on buildings at N.7.
3 Blenheims 203 Squadron using advanced base Kamaran detailed for fighter escort to convoy B.S.8. and half. 1 failed to locate convoy. One S.81 approached Aden 0030 circling at long range prior to attacking from north at 0110 at 9,000 feet. Well located and held by S.L.'s and attacked by moderately accurate A.A.
2 Gladiators 94 Sqdn. using advanced base R.A.F. A.R.A. maintained fighter patrol between Perim and Eritrean Coast for interception of possible enemy searching for above S.81. 4 Gladiators 94 Sqdn. fighter patrol Aden 0440 to 0505.
All S.M.F. (A.H.Q. Aden, 2109/20)

MOST SECRET.

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japanese Penetration, Indo-China. — Substance of Chief of Staff's Report on military consequences of further Japanese penetration into Indo-China and possible acquisition of bases in Thailand. (W.O. to G.O.C. Malaya, 0045/20).

BENAVON — Your 0548/19. This appears very probable. BENAVON had large cargo of rubber. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, to C.in C. E.I., 04582/20).

M.E.W. Far East. — Since my predecessor raised in his 0426/23/3 question of establishing a Far East Branch of M.E.W. closing of Mediterranean has greatly added to importance of trans-Siberian route for imports to Germany. Branch more than ever desirable. Co-ordination in Far East entirely lacking. (C.in C. China, 07232/20, to Admty).

N.E.I. Navy, Staff Talks. — My 0213/17. Further delay due to telegram to Governor-General from Welter, Dutch S. of S. for Colonies, after a visit to War Office on 12/11, that W.O. satisfied with general situation, etc. Am trying to rectify unfortunate impressions created by this statement. (C.in C. China, 06512/20 to Admty.)

Japanese Transports. — 8 Japanese transports apparently loaded passed eastward through Hainan Straits on 16/11 and 17/11. May be connected with withdrawal of troops ex KWANGSI. My 0646/8 refers. (C.O.I.S. Far East, to Admty., 0816/20).

Japanese Shipping. — My 1137/5. HEIAN MARU's sailing 6/12 has been restored. Following additional sailings apparently cancelled: ATAGO MARU for Bombay 2/12 KOMAKI MARU for Singapore 14/12, WALES MARU for New York 30/11 NORFOLK MARU has taken over WALES MARU's voyage.
Opinion in Yokohama shipping circles is that above westbound sailings have been cancelled for commerical reasons.
(N.A. Tokyo, 1631/20 to Admty.)

Japanese Incident. — Your (?) M.27/2. of 27/10 Note. Possibly refers to N.L.O.Shanghai 0937/27 October - Boarding of Br.Ships by Japanese.
This incident should nowbe considered closed. (C.in C. China to N.L.O. Shanghai, 1005/20).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Graving Dock, Halifax. — Naval Services considering construction of graving dock at Halifax capable of docking largest of H.M. ships. Views as to minimum dimensional requirements requested. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1018/20 to Admty.)

S/M O.15. — Strongly concur in C.in C. A.W.I's 1121/19. This s/m would be invaluable for extensive programme of A/S training at Halifax next Spring and summer. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1023/20 to Admty.)

German Ships. — Tampico reports indication that German ships may again attempt to sail week-end (B.2). N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to DIOMEDE. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1115/20).

U.S. Bases, Cable and W/T Facilities. — Ref. U.S. bases and communication scheme. Request I may be informed of policy to be adopted.
Any U.S. proposal developing extensive cable or wireless programme will be offset if local offices at base ports are ready to accept additional traffic and meet U.S. requirements through our own channels. Suggest they be advised in anticipation. I consider it most important that cable and wireless facilities should remain under our control. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1248/20 to Admty.)

Australia.

AQUITANIA — Left Fremantle 0140Z/19 for Sydney. (A.C.N.B., 0150Z/20).

Raider Report. — Following from MAIMOA, "RRRR, 31.50' S., 100.21' E., course 150°, 11 knots. Chased 0830Z/20". Signal received at 0838Z/20. (A.C.N.B., 1145/20 to C.in C. E.I., etc.) MAIMOA left Fremantle W.A., 17/11 for Durban. Position is about 720 miles west of Fremantle. Considered her assailant is probably an A.M.C. (D.S. 443)

GOORANGAI sunk. — H.M.A.S. GOORANGAI, minesweeper, sank after collision with M.V. DUNTROON, 1064Z/20, 140° 1.3 miles Queenscliff High Light, Port Phillip. No survivors (A.C.N.B. 0632Z/21).
24 lives lost. Ship was built in Australia for deep sea trawling and had been sweeping the Bass Strait since the recent sinkings by mines. (The Times, (Melbourne Correspondent), 22/11).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RIO GRANDE. — Repeating N.A. Washington 1729/19, re equipment likely for supplying raiders, to C.in C. S.A., A. and W.I., R.A.S.A.D., etc. (D.D.I.C., 1710/20 amended 1234/21) Ditto to Ships, N. Atlantic, (F.O.C. N.A., 2140/20 amended 1201/22)

SPEZIA. — My 1655/19. Later report states story untrue and SPEZIA arrived Barcelona. (N.A. Madrid, 2030/20).

Ships at Tampico. — Indication may again attempt to sail week-end. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1115/20 - see America and West Indies).

MARITZA — My 1541/14 for German Ship LUVSEE read German Ship MARITZA. Split reports crew of MARITZA state all German Ships now at Trieste are preparing to transport German troops to Albania. Reliability unassessed.
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1112/20).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARABIA. — At Assab. To transfer cargo consigned to Iranian Govt. and consisting of machinery and war materials to the Panamanian EUREKA for onward passage to Bandarshapur. (D.S. 442).

AEQUITAS — My 1535/9 Italian AEQUITAS speed 8 knots will sail from Ceara 25/11 for Rio de Janeiro. She will be escorted by RENVOYLE as far as Pernambuco, thereafter CANANEA. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1450/20).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE TAMATAVE — Orders given to intercept. Sighted on 19/11 about 190 miles S. of Cape Point, Cape of Good Hope, steering west. (D.S. 442).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BERKELEY, false report. — SSSS. BERKELEY, position Sunk Light Vessel, attacked. (Plymouth W/T 0959/20) Negative BERKELEY's SSSS 0959. A wreck. (VIMIERA, 1139/20).

KOHINUR (torpedoed 15/11) CONGONIAN (torpedoed 18/11) — My 2229/19. Survivors named last night from KOHINUR. DEVONSHIRE reports she has all survivors of CONGONIAN except second engineer. (C.in C. S.A., 1131 N/20, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

N.W. Approaches. — Indications that these may be as many as 11 U-boats in N.W. Approaches, north of 55°N. Majority appear to be spread on lat. 56° N. (C.in C. W.A., 1125/20)

1612. — D.F. probable U/B, 56° to 57° N., 18° to 22° W. (D.D.I.C. 1900/20)

1819. — D.F., probable U/B, 59.40 N., 2.50 E., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1914/20)

0819. — At 0819, U/B reported in 59.40 N., 2.50 E. (F.O.(S) to S/M's on Patrol, 1926/20).

1919. — Between Faroes and Shetlands, very indefinite position (D.S. 443).

1229. — 55° - 56° N., 16° - 20° W. indefinite position (D.S. 443).

South Atlantic.

Your 1955/19. Bearings from Home and Canadian Stations gave an indication of a U/Boat approx. 300' to the westward of Freetown. Freetown's bearing now gives a fair cut in 10.30 N., 22° W. (D.D.I.C. to C.in C. S.A., 0833/20) 7.13 N., 13° W. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE sighted s/m. (Freetown W/T, 0947/20). Position 25' S. of Cape St. Ann, Freetown (D.S. 442).

MOST SECRET.

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian 1 probably in Bay of Biscay proceeding to Gironde.
2 in N.W. Approaches or farther W. No recent news.

German 1 off Sierra Leone.
1 still some 450 miles W. of Gironde.

It is still though that there are only about 5 North of 55° N. but there are slight indications that as many as 11 are in this area. It seems doubtful whether the Germans are able to send out so many this month.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/20).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Sailing of Destroyers for Gibraltar.

Your 2055/20. Reason for delay. (A.C.W.A. 1044/21 to Adty).

Proposed strengthening of Western Patrol.

A.M.1410/18. Minute of meeting being sent to you by courier tomorrow. Request your remarks by signal if possible. (A.C.N.S. H. 1803/21 to C.in C. H.F.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Nore.

Cancel Patrol O tonight. Ships not required for duty revert to 4 hours Notice for Steam till 2000. (C.in C. Nore 0959/21).
My 1119/23/10. For the present the Flotilla detailed for Patrol O is to keep one Destroyer at ½ hours notice between 0830 and 2000, remaining Destroyers at Harwich and Sheerness being at 2½ hours Notice except when ordered to revert to 4 hours. ICARUS to remain at 4 hours Notice by day and by night. (C.in C. Nore 1201/21).

DELUGE.

At 1130/21. (D.C. 1211/21) At 2330/21. (D.C. 2336/21).

Movements.

FORMIDABLE.

My 1347/19. Sailed for day and night Trials. VENOMOUS, VESPER, HESPERUS in company. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0430/21 to C.in C. W.A.)

Nore.

Movements to 1200/22. (C.in C. Nore 1200/21).

RODNEY.

Your 1053/20. From todays U/Boat plot in Adty. RODNEY would seen better placed if she went up 25° W., to 61° N. and then along 61° N., to 20° W. before turning south to R/V. (V.C.N.S. 1200/21 to C.in C. H.F.)
My 1053/20. Proceed as in V.C.N.S. 1200/21. (C.in C. H.F. 1339/21 to RODNEY).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Portsmouth. — Night Movements (C.in C. Portsmouth 1213/21).

Dover. — Dispositions for night 21/22. (V.A. Dover 1232/21)

Rosyth. — Movements for Night 21/22. (C.in C. Rosyth 1548/21). Command State. (C.in C. Rosyth 2001/21).

Western Approaches. — Disposition of Forces at 1200/21. No.448 (C.in C. W.A. 1603/21).

Operations.

Attack on Enemy Invasion Practice at Ostend. — Proposed for Night 22/23 to commence 0001/23. Request you detail 4 destroyers in consultation with C.in C. Portsmouth and issue Operation Orders with A.O.C.16 Group Coastal Command. (V.C.N.S. 1413/21)to (C.in C. Nore).

WITCH VOLUNTEER. — Patrol westward tonight to Portland and return. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/21 to Adty).

Submarines.

O.22. — Left Dundee 5/11 for Patrol of Südesnes and has not been heard of since. If nothing heard of her by 0900/22 regret she must be considered lost. (V.A.S. 1124/21 to Adty).

SEALION. — Left Blyth for patrol. (Captain S.6. 1156/21 to Adty) Sailed 1200 to patrol within 20 miles of 61° N., 3° 47' E. (Capt: S.6. 1213/21).

TAKU. — Estimated off Wolf Rock 0600/23. Route thence to Gironde. (Capt: S.2. 1236/21).

USK. — Sailed at 1443 for Patrol D.4. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1533/21).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/22. (V.A.S. 1719/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. S.A.3 and two southern tracks of S.A.2. cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1532/21).

Assessments (C.in C. Rosyth 1532/21 and 1806/21 to Adty).

V.L.A. Balloons. Your A.545/20/11 and Balloon Command's A.907/19/11. Concur that V.L.A. Balloons should be used and that requirement be given high priority. But propose that C.in C. W.A's suggestion be tried as a deterrent until V.L.A's are available. (D. of L.D. 1636/21 to Air Ministry).

Belfast. Following temporary restrictions on flying near Belfast Lough and Port are to come into force 30 minutes after sunset on 23/11. (Air Ministry) (1421/21).

Enemy Air Activity.

FISHPOOL. (Bombed 14/11). Observed position at 0800, 53° 55'N., 13° 46'W. (GARDENIA 0859/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
In tow of ASSURANCE in 53° 50'N., 13° 45' W., course 065° speed 6 knots at 1600. (GARDENIA 1603/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Convoy BOOTY. Shadowed by one A/C in 52° N., 1° 42'E. (WOLFHOUND 0912/21) Enemy A/C bombing convoy in 51° 50'N., 1° 30'E. (From (?) 1116/21). One FW.187 machine-gun attack at 1116 damaged by Gun-fire. (VANITY 1135/21 to C.in C. Nore). One aircraft shadowing convoy in 51° 45'N., 1° 25'E., course 230 speed 7 knots. (From (?) 1150/21).

SHIPMATES. (Bombed 14/11) My 1946/14. Salvage Officer reports ship must be considered a total loss. (V.A. Dover 0921/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy PILOT (F.N.39).

One aircraft bombing. (WESTON 1050/21) Enemy attacking convoy in 51° 38'N., 1° 15'E., course 060° speed 7 knots.. (WESTON 1110/21). (VIMIERA 1115/21). One aircraft shadowing (VIMIERA 1127/21) Am being shadowed by one aircraft (WESTON 1230/21).

Walton-on-the-Naze.

D.O.Walton reports Walton bombed by Dornier at 1215. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1220/21 to C.in C. Nore).

Faroes.

N.O.I.C. Faroes reports one Enemy Monoplane, presumably R/C, passed over Thorshaven and Skaale Fiord at 100/21. (A.C.O.S. 1230/21 to Adty, O.C.Troops Faroe Is. 1206/21).

BIELA. (Bombed 18/11).

Arrived at Galway today. (D.O.R.)

Mining.

Harwich.

At 0645, 4 aircraft circling between 090° and 180° Bawdsey 10 to 20 miles. Suspect minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0656/21 to C.in C. Nore).

S.N.11.

Your 1845/20. Propose leave port ZA at 1330/11/23 and lay within six cables on either side of centre line running 327° from 66° 25.5' N., 23° 09' W, to 113 fathom line. Length of line about 46 miles. Time of starting lay 1130 B.S.T. November 26th. Date of return to port ZA 29/11. (R.A.M.L. 1008/21 to Adty).

My 1008 Town-Class Destroyers can be used if Fuel is available at Reykjavik. (R.A.M.L. 1009/21 to Adty).

My 1009. Another alternative is to detach Destroyers off Reykjavik and pick them up on return. Fuel would not then be required. (R.A.M.L. 1128/21 to Adty).

My 1009 and 1128/21. BATH reports ample endurance at speed of Squadron without fuelling. (R.A.M.L. 1842/21 to Adty).

DAKOTIAN.

(British, 6426 tons). Casualty 5 cables 090° from Dale Point.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1136/21 to Adty).

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Milford Haven.

Open, subject to local instructions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1154/21 to Adty).

Diesel-engined ships on N.E. Coast. Proposed General Signal.

In view of present danger from acoustic mines it is proposed that a general signal be issued to N.C.S.O. on this coast that diesel engined ships may have to be towed through dangerous approach channels.

Diesel vessels should therefore not approach within the 20 fathom line until approved by examination vessel and N.C.S.O's should signal letter M. after name of ship in routine signals. (N.C.S.O. Tyne 1245/21 to D.T.D.)

Thames Estuary.

Explosions, etc., in Thames Estuary for night of 20/21st November.

2110. Incorrect recognition signal fired by aircraft over Maplin Sands.

2204. Mine exploded in mid air over Princes Channel.

0024. Explosion felt which appeared to come from Longsands and corresponded to plot of aircraft in this area.

0245. Three explosions seen on surface over Kentish Flats following passage of aircraft.

Very low flying aircraft was noted as follows:-

2150. In Channel between E. Oaze and Knob.

2330. In Channel between Nore and East Cant.
(S.O.T.L.D.F. 1247/21 to C.in C. Nore).

Following received from VIMIERA. With F.N.39. My 1115. As well as at least 6 bombs, objects about size of 200 pound bombs attached to parachute were seen dropping from Junkers 88 in approximate position 221° East Barrow L.V. 1.5 miles. Ships of convoy passed position without result.
(C.in C. Nore 1305/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

XMAS ROSE. (H.M. Drifter) Mined and sunk at 1545/21 in 51° 47' 45" N., 1° 25' 30" E. 3 missing, 8 wounded of which 1 very seriously.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea. 2015/21 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Dutch Coast. At 1502/20 Red Cross Ship off Helder.
At 1506/20 Tanker 2000 tons off Texel, steering South.
At 1537/20 one M/V 5000 tons moored off Schiermonikoog.
At 1555/20 a convoy of 8 M/V's 6000 to 8000 tons off Borkum, steering west.
(M.L.O. Nore 0030/21 to C.F.D.Spurn)

Enemy Unit. At 1455/21 an unknown Enemy Unit was near Lister. D/F unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1526/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

LAIRDSWOOD. (British, 789 tons). In distress off Corswall Point. (Plymouth W/T 0706/21) Have repaired port engine. Making for Belfast Lough. (Port Patrick Radio 0734/21). Cancel distress signal. (N.O.I.C. Stranvaer 0810/21 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

AMBUSCADE. Reports at 0910/21. Have been dismasted and starboard circulator out of action. Am returning harbour. (F.O. Greenock 1140/21 to Adty).
Arrived (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0043/22 to Adty).

My 1444/16. Vessel previously reported aground S.E. of No. 89 now refloated and proceeding in tow. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1650/21 to C.in C. Nore)

LANARK's Raft. Coast Guard reports Emergency Raft with name LANARK of Montreal found ashore at Rabbit Island 58° 32'N., 4° 24'W. (A.C.O.S. 1659/21 to Adty).

ALEXIA. (Tanker). Left Invergordon in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN, FAIRPLAY I ABEILLE 21, escorted by A/S Trawler LEICESTER CITY. Speed 5 knots. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1732/21 to Adty).

NORDEST. Aground between C.1. and C.2. Black Buoys. Requires immediate assistance (Seaforth Radio 1910/21) Distress signal now clear. (Portishead Radio 1942/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

GLOUCESTER CASTLE. My 1207/20 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1733/20. GLOUCESTER CASTLE will not sail as arranged and should be included in appropriate O.B. Convoy. (D.O.D.(H) 1457/21).

S.C.11. Route. (C.in C. W.A. to ENCHANTRESS, etc., 1505/21). Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT, SAGUENAY, SKEENA, 2335/21).
To alter course after local escort joins. (C.in C. W.A., 2307/21 to ENCHANTRESS).

H.X.86. Position of 1300 G.M.T. (VOLTAIRE, 1410Z/21).

H.X.92. Date and route. (D.T.D. 1613/21).

E.N. 29. Modifying route. (FANDANGO, 1645/21)

O.B. 246. My 1541/20. CITY OF WELLINGTON returned to port. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1626/21)

W.N. 44. Programme. Code, Metric. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1247/21).

E.N. 30. Programme. Code, Mission. Escort DANEMAN, HORNPIPE, additional escorts, FOWEY, GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1709/21).

B.H.X.92. No ocean escort available. Ships to be sailed independently for Halifax to join H.X.92. (C.in C. W.A., 2202/21 to Bermuda).

O.B.245
VICTORIA Delayed by weather. Will be at least three hours late at rendezvous. SABRE and SARDONYX have insufficient fuel to make the rendezvous and MALCOLM will have to return directly after making contact. VICTORIA was found derelict and abandoned in 56° 08' N. 14° 20' W. at 1015/21. Consider tug could salve her when weather moderates. Have joined SARDONYX to SANDWICH convoy so long as her fuel permits. My p.c. and s. (MALCOLM 1733/21 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B.246. You have been detailed S.O. of escort. If in company Cdre. of convoy pass my immediately following message to him. Convoy is spread out, am in company with Vice. Cdre. of convoy my position course and speed are 53. 58, 04. 58, 315, 12. (AMBUSCADE to WALKER, 0215/21).

/ Troop Convoys ....

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

GLOUCESTER CASTLE. My 1207/20 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1733/20. GLOUCESTER CASTLE will not sail as arranged and should be included in appropriate O.B. Convoy. (D.O.D.(H) 1457/21).

S.C.11. Route. (C.in C. W.A. to ENCHANTRESS, etc., 1506/21). Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT, SAGUENAY, SKEENA, 2335/21).
To alter course after local escort joins. (C.in C. W.A., 2307/21 to ENCHANTRESS).

H.X.86. Position of 1300 G.M.T. (VOLTAIRE, 1410Z/21).

H.X.92. Date and route. (D.T.D. 1613/21).

E.N. 29. Modifying route. (FANDANGO, 1645/21)

O.B. 246. My 1541/20. CITY OF WELLINGTON returned to port. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1826/21)

W.N. 44. Programme. Code, Metric. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1247/21).

E.N. 30. Programme. Code, Mission. Escort DANEMAN, HORNPIPE, additional escorts, FOWEY, GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1709/21).

B.H.X.92. No ocean escort available. Ships to be sailed independently for Halifax to join H.X.92. (C.in C. W.A., 2202/21 to Bermuda).

O.B.245
VICTORIA Delayed by weather. Will be at least three hours late at rendezvous. SABRE and SARDONYX have insufficient fuel to make the rendezvous and MALCOLM will have to return directly after making contact. VICTORIA was found derelict and abandoned in 56° 08' N. 14° 20' W. at 1015/21. Consider tug could salve her when weather moderates. Have joined SARDONYX to SANDWICH convoy so long as her fuel permits. My p.c. and s. (MALCOLM 1733/21 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B.246. You have been detailed S.O. of escort. If in company Cdre. of convoy pass my immediately following message to him. Convoy is spread out, am in company with Vice. Cdre. of convoy my position course and speed are 53. 58, 04. 58, 315, 12. (AMBUSCADE to WALKER, 0215/21).

/ Troop Convoys ....

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Troop Convoys.

ORDUNA
ADDA
CITY OF CANTERBURY. Admiralty's 1311/16. Destroyer escort HIGHLANDER HAVELOCK HURRICANE. All sailing with Liverpool portion. (C.in C. W.A. 1039/21).

CIRCASSIA is to take CALIFORNIA DERBYSHIRE and WORCESTERSHIRE under her orders leaving Clyde to rendezvous with ORDUNA ADDA, FORTHBANK and GLOUCESTER CASTLE 000° 8 miles Altacarry. Route. Thence to Freetown. From position (d) ORDUNA proceeds independently for Bermuda. (F.O.C.N.P. 1600/21).

WINDSOR CASTLE
PASTEUR My 2219/19. WINDSOR CASTLE with Gibraltarians will not repeat not be ready to sail 27/11. CATHAY will not now be required as escort for WINDSOR CASTLEand should be sailed as convenient to Freetown.
PASTEUR will be ready to sail from Clyde and CAPETOWN CASTLE carrying 1100 Government personnel to Halifax, from Liverpool on 27/11.
CATHAY will not now be required as escort for WINDSOR CASTLE and should be sailed as convenient to Freetown. (D.O.D.(H) 1548/21).

W.S.4A. Admty. 2211/15, para 3(c). For 8/12 read 14/12 (D.O.D.(F) 2253/21)

Independent Ships, Air Attack, Use of Kites. Your 1913/9. Para. 3 of your proposals would involve giving ships referred to the A.A. Armament of an A.M.C. with "Complete Equipment". The equipment required for such a measure is not available. Regretted proposal cannot be put into practice at present.
Opinion expressed in your paras. 4 and 5 is confirmed and action has already been taken as suggested.
Of measures available to defeat low flying attack, most effective is considered to be fitting and operation of kites. Fast liners will be given priority for fitting as they become available and rules for their employment in waters where liable to air attack are being reconsidered. Additional close range weapons will be provided to Fast Liners as they become available. (Hd. of M. 2035/21, to C.in C. W.A.)

/ Air Menace
E. Coast
Convoys .....

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Air Menace, E. Coast Convoys.

Increasingly difficult to persuade crews of merchant ships to sail in East Coast Convoys owing to repeated air attacks. Maintenance of these convoys is of great importance particularly for coal supply to London and South Coast. Convoys are most vulnerable between Sunk and Nore light vessels where passage is made in daylight. Request urgent consideration given to provision of a fighter patrol over these convoys during this part of their journey.
(D.T.D. 1953/21, to Air Ministry).

Greek Ships.

Following categories of Greek ships are to be treated as though they possessed Ship Warrants.
(a) Vessels requisitioned by the Greek Government.
(b) Vessels sailing on voyages to Greece or from Greece with cargo or outward bound to a port to load back for Greece.
(c) Vessels sailing to Egypt, Sudan or Suez Canal Ports and sailing with authority of C.in C. Mediterranean or C.in C. East Indies.
(d) Vessels sailing to the U.S.A. with cargoes of ore or other munitions supplies. (D.T.D. 1534/21, "A" Message).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Submarine Ajax. Crew.	Your 1234/18. Negiations now proceeding with Vichy through Ambassador Madrid, for exchange of AJAX crew against British service personnel held prisoner in N. Africa. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1228/21) Adty. 1356/22/10. Following French personnel from AJAX wish to serve. Conditions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1652/21).
WINNIPEG.	My 0943/20. French ship WINNIPEG sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1545/21).
Libreville, Port Gentil.	Adty. 1227/19. French propose to mount guns 2 at Libreville 2 at Port Gentil. Capitaine Crespin of Manoka battery, a first class practical artillery engineer, to be in charge of work. No cement or metal for holding down rings available locally. (C.S.I. 1235/21 to Adty).
Free French Submarines.	(?At) Duala on 20/11 French S.N.O. strongly advocated sending 3 or 4 French submarines now in England to this area for local defence of A.E.F. (C.S.I., 1611A/21, to C.in C. S.A.)
Intelligence Djibuti, French Indo-China.	813. Following for F.O. from Mackereth yesterday conversed with two French acquaintances (1) Gros (e?) (2) Aubry, sent to Aden from Jibuti by French Governor there to negotiate release of S.S. ESPERANCE. Gros (e?) who is pro Vichy said the Governor of Jibuti had asked for a French naval squadron from Indo-China to break British blockade of Jibuti and Madagascar. (Gros(e?), Aubry now on their way to Saigon. Suggest a Japanese attack on French Indo-China which we could scarcely prevent, need not be discouraged officially. It might do much to hasten free French Colonial resistance to Vichy, etc. (F.O.C.R.IN 0504Z/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Reconnaissance No incident. (200 Group 1740/21).

Italian Submarines.

Present position. (Consul-Gen. Tangier 2053/21).

Operation Ration.

Your 1320/20. In view of paras. 2 and 3 of your 1320/20/10, and as these ships cannot be seized inside Spanish Territorial waters, it appears unlikely operation can succeed if carried out off Spanish Moroccan Coast.
(D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A. 0058/21).

Your 0058/21. Agree. But limitation of area to 4 W., was imposed in order to ensure that Collar would not be delayed by late return of ships employed and also owing to lack of screening forces I should be unable to send heavy ships to sea in support.
It was hoped that ships on convoy might emerge from territorial waters at dusk This restriction will now be removed and consequent risk accepted but out forces will be ordered to return to Gibraltar by 1600/23.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0422/21, to Adty).

My 1320/20, No East going convoys passed Straits today Thursday. Two extra destroyers will join intercepting force tomorrow 22nd November.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2300/21).

Operation "Collar" DESPATCH.

Your 1629/20. Approved.
(D.O.D.(F) 0020/21 to S.O.Force H)

* (Inclusion of H.M.S. DESPATCH in Force H. for operation COLLAR).

FRANCONI MANCHESTER.

Not more than 200 men are to be on deck of FRANCONIA at any time during daylight hours from time of passing Tarifa until troops are transferred to Cruisers(?) approx. 48 hours after arrival at Gibraltar. Pending further intructions no leave is to be given and no one is to be allowed ashore from MANCHESTER or FRANCONIA.
(F.O. Force H. 0929/21 to C.S.18).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

SHEFFIELD.
SOUTHAMPTON.
M.T. Ships.

Operation COLLAR postponed 24 hours After rendezvousing with SOUTHAMPTON and M.T. ships adjust course and speed to pass Europa Point 0200/25 provided M.T. ships have sufficient fuel for destination without calling at Gibraltar.

F.O.C.N.A. 1716/19, amend rendezvous with destroyers to 036 25' North 013 20' West at 1200/23. If no reply received it will be assumed that M.T. ships have sufficient fuel.
(S.O. Force H. 1045/21 to SHEFFIELD)

Use of Torpedo Aircraft.

My 0405/19 para. three. Intend to abandon attack on Alghero in order to retain Torpedo Spotter Reconnaissances for reconnaissance and T/P Striking Force should interference by surface force be attempted. Request anticipated position Force D. at dawn D.5 may be signalled.
(S.O.Force H. 1411/21 to C.in C. Med).

Gibraltar Air Reconnaissance.

Situation report. Between 1212 and 1355 hours, one Martin reconnaissance aircraft flew over the rock more than once and was driven off by A.A. fire. Details of Spanish defences will be sent shortly. Noticeable increase during last month.
(Govr. Gib. 2130/21 to W.O.)

South Atlantic.

Raider Report.

Disguised M/V Raider 30.01N., 25.10W., (MORETON BAY, 1130Z/21) Intercept 1140, de Valencia Radio QQQQ unknown Vessel 30.01 N., 25.10 W. 1139 G.M.T. (Landsend Radio to Adty).,(1150/21).

Your 1130/21. VAN DER ZANN from Ponta Delgada to Freetown may be near this position. (F.O.C.N.A., 1404/21 to MORETON BAY).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Enemy Units.

Your 0918/19/11. (A) This has now been identified with a transmission on which Ascension received an unreliable bearing 360 at 2012 G.M.T./17. German ship and control were transmitting simultaneously. (B) Ascension reported a transmission approximate ten kilocs. '9 ve control B's frequency at 2116 G.M.T. bearing 356 degrees Group EBIH which occurred near of the transmission was the only group read. Request information whether this also can be identified with the transmission quoted in your 0918/19/11.
(C.in C. S.A. 1513/21, to Adty).

MOBEKA.

Left Banana 20/11 unaware of presence of submarine. (Acting Consul, Leopoldville, 1110/21).

HARMATTAN)
SITOBONDO)

Due Capetown 17/11 from United Kingdom not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown)(1105B/21).

CAPE RACE.

Due Durban 17/11 from Calcutta, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1106B/21).

OSTHAV.

Due East London 18/11 from Singapore, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1106B/21).

ANCYLUS.

Tanker. Adty 2215/20. Can this be arranged. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1115N/21).

KENT.

Your 1105/20. KENT may be used to escor S.L.58 to United Kingdom. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1807/21).

Use of A.M.C's. ESPERANCE BAY.

Request report approx. number of officers and O.R's also quantities of stores, that can be embarked in A.M.C's for transport from United Kingdom to Freetown. Early information required re ESPERANCE BAY as arrangements now proceeding. (D.O.D.(F) 1912/21 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

MOOLTAN.
ARAWA.
MORETON BAY.

Preliminary survey of MOOLTAN indicates that she will require 4 months refit to make her serviceable.

Approved to fit ARAWA with catapult during present refit, estimated time required two months. Similar approval has been given for MORETON BAY. In view of above, do you wish refit of MORETON BAY to be postponed.
(D.O.D.(F) 1913/21 to C.in C. S.A.)

PENNLAND.

My 1413 /18 PENNLAND now with 561 internees and guard of four officers 105 men including one N.L.O. and five Naval Ratings sailed Freetown 0630/21 for Kingston Jamaica. (Route and E.T.A.) (C.in C. S.A. 2025N/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece. — Military situation. (M.A. Athens, 0230/21, to W.O.)

Italian Fleet. — S.O. Force H 1310/20. What is present disposition of Italian surface ships? (1 S.L. to V.A. Malta, 0019/21)
Your 0019/21. One CAVOUR class battleship was at Spezia 20/11, 2 or 3 8" cruisers and 2 6" cruisers normally based on North Sicilian ports, and 2 or 3 other 8" cruisers at Maddalena or elsewhere. Usual 4 destroyers at each of Messina and Trapani, and probably some for escort duty at other ports further north. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0211/21).
My 0211/21. For "2 or 3 other 8" cruisers", read "1 or possibly 2 other 8" cruisers". (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0845/21).

Gladiators. — Gladiator position serious, reaching the end of our reserves. (details).
Above should be borne in mind in all planning for employment of Gladiators and re-arming. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., 0841/21).

Operation "Collar", Corvettes. — Admty. 2053/20. To ensure corvettes accompany Force F, Operation Collar is postponed 24 hours. D.1 day is 23/11. (C.in C. Med. to Admty. 0817/21)

Orders, M.B.9. — Following extracts from Operation M.B.9 (which includes Operation Collar) are forwarded for distribution to ships concerned in case no opportunity of forwarding complete orders arises. (C.in C. Med., 1619/21, to S.O. Force H)
See Mediterranean Volume. Amending 1207/17, re sailing of 1st Division, 1st Battle Squadron (C.in C. Med. 1621/21 to S.O. Force H).

Hospital Ships. — Your 1132/20/10 (use of QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA as hospital ships). Presume arrangement will be made in accordance A.H.Q. M.E's QMG/24231, 31/10, and S.T.O. Bombay's 13302/7. (S.S.T.O. Egypt to A.C.N.B., 1759/21).

S.W.3. — Cancel my 1506/20. R.A. Plowden will be Commodore S.W.3 in GEORGIC proceeding Durban, and V.A. Sommerville Vice Commodore in ORONTES calling Mombasa. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1238/21)

Yugoslavia. — Possibility of entry into the war, and inquiry re possibility of evacuation of army. (N.A. Belgrade, to Admty., 1845/21) (See Med. Vol.)

/ Air Report .....

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Air Report. Operational Summary No. 164 up to 1200 hours 21/11.

Durazzo Bombed. 1. Greece Night November 19/20. 2 Wellingtons bombed Durazzo docks and one Wellington attacked Tirana Aerodrome setting fire to hangars. Day 20/11. Fighter Blenheims maintained standing patrol over Athens.

Suez Canal Raid. 2. Egypt 18/11. On enemy aircraft dropped two bombs among convoy in Bitter Lake and machine gunned three ships. Four bombs subsequently dropped near Gineifa. No damage or casualties. Night 19/20 November. 0430 hours. Blenheims bombed Bardia and Tobruk. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1125/21)

Italian Intelligence. My 1112/20 Split reports: (1) German ship DJRH (MARITZA) due to leave Dubrovnik for Trieste November 21st or November 22nd steaming only by day owing to drifting mines.
(ii) Preparation for embarkation of German troops confirmed by Yugo-slavian - report from Trieste.
(iii) Result of first bombing of Durazzo three oil tanks and three steamers destroyed.
(iv) Eight anti-aircraft guns have arrived at San Giovanni di Medua and 40,000 Italian troops expected there from Milan.
Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1701/21).

Malta Air Raids. 20-21/11. Combined services report Malta up to 1700/21. All times G.M.T. 2334 to 0049 2 consecutive alarms. First single raider flew to within 4 miles of Gozo where he circled and returned. 1 Hurricane up. No interception. No bombs dropped. Immediately afterwards another single raider flew from north of the Island to a point 20 miles due west of Malta then turned east and flew across Island. 1 Hurricane up but just failed to intercept. 3 H.E. and 4 incendiaries dropped between Curmi and Rabat. No damage to service or civilian property nor casualties. Objective according to Rome news appears to have been Takali Aerodrome. No reccos. carried out due to adverse weather conditions Ionian and Tyrrhenian Seas. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1725/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Japanese Contraband, Persian Gulf.

My 1210/18. Am now informed no cargo discharged at Bushire. Appears these ships load manganese at Karmagoa for Yawata and subsequently call at Bushire to load opium for Far East, but this latter call never advertised. Presume we have no right to interfere.
(C.in C. E.I., to Admty., 0708Z/21).

OLTENIA
STELAUA ROMANA

My 1140/31 Two complete crews now available please advise immediately if required as otherwise they will be given employment by shipping master.
(S.S.T.O. Bombay 1118Z/21 to C.in C.E.I.)

OLE JACOBS
AUTOMEDON

My 1322/13 Distress messages made by Norwegian ship OLE JACOBS and British ship AUTOMEDON. Para. 1 as amended by my 1444/14 has been confirmed by Dutch ship MACOMA who was within 80 miles of OLE JACOBS at 1345 G.M.T./10 radio operator reports cancellation was transmitted by OLE JACOBS'S operator. The Keying was identical with the previous transmission.
(C.in C. E.I. 1404Z/20 to C.O.S. Singapore, etc.)

Intelligence Summary No. 162 for 24 hours ending 1500. One Blenheim 203 Squadron returning from convoy escort duties reconnoitred Assab area a.m., nothing new and no activities seen Assab harbour Macaaca and Satellities.
Three Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escort over convoy B.S. 8½.
No casualties. All time G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1814/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Personnel Indo-China. Your 0413/6. Every obstacle should be put in their way, but all cases affecting French diplomatic personnel should be referred to London. (Further remarks re de Schompre). (Hd. of M., to C.in C. China, 2221/21).

America and West Indies.

LEMDOTA. No objection to U.S. Cutter LEMDOTA visiting Hamilton Bermuda to land hospital case. Understand Colonial Office are similarly informing Governor.
(D.D.O.D.(F) 0823/21 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Japanese Shipping. Your 1032/17 and your 1229/18.
N Y K passenger steamers will in future call at Acapulco and calling at Balbao will be optional. YASUKUNI MARU removed from Japan - South America service to Japan - Seattle service and replaced by HIE MARU. O S K line round - the - World service discontinued and ships are in Seattle - California running. No confirmation of reports of suspension of California - Caribbean service. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1505/21 to S.O.I., Kingston).

Japanese situation generally unchanged. Arrivals and departures have increased somewhat past week. KAGU MARU sailed Baltimore November 11th for Panama Canal direct omitting usual call at Gulf of Mexico Port. S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica's 1032 November 17th and 1229 November 18th under investigation.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1411/21 to Capt. O.S., Singapore).

U.S. Trade with Martinique. My 1231/9/10 and your 1139/16/10.
Trade between French West Indies and United States. In addition to evidence reported in my 1731/19 that the United States are encouraging trade (excepting fuel oil supplies) with Martinique, press reports from New York announce the release of recent French credits in the United States. It seems clear that U.S. policy is the maintenance of Vichy control in French West Indies, whereas our policy is presumably still to encourage Free French movements. Would appear that no useful purpose would now be achieved by bringing in for examination French vessels trading between French West Indies and United States. Intend however to adhere to the policy of bringing in French ships trading between French West Indies and Africa when these are met with at sea. Request Admiralty views.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1001/21 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Raider,
PORT BRISBANE

Following received Singapore Commercial W/T at 1610Z/21 RR RR from PORT BRISBANE 029° 22' south 095° 36' east suspicious vessel firing shots at us (in area) GOFF. (C.in C. China, 1645Z/21 to A.C.N.B. etc.)

Following intercepted by Adelaide Radio RR RR 029° 22' S. 095° 36' E. firing at us 1719/21 SS PORT BRISBANE.
(A.C.N.B. 1837Z/18. T.O.O. as received apparently should read 1837/21).
Position is 300' N.W. of that of MAIMOA, which reported a raider early on 20/11 CANBERRA, which had left Perth to investigate MAIMOA's report, should be in the vicinity. (D.S. 444).

QUEEN MARY.

Troop Transport QUEEN MARY arrived Sydney 0200Z/21. (A.C.N.B. 1350Z/21)

PERTH

H.M.A.S.PERTH escorting U S 7 arrived Freemantle 0930Z/21. (A.C.N.B. 1505Z/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LECH. Left Vigo 2230 last night for unknown destination. (Acting Consul, Vigo, 0734/21, D.D.I.C. 1134/21).

HELGOLAND. Repeating C.in C. A.W.I's 1941/19 to ships and authorities, Areas A and B. (D.D.I.C., 0010/21).

MARITZA Split reports due to leave Dubrovnik for Trieste 21 or 22/11, steaming only by day owing to drifting mines. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1701/21).

LARISSA. Arrived from Russia with grain. (Macrae, Galatz, 1221/21).

CORDELIA. Arrived from Russia (Macrae, Galatz, 1221/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

VICTORIA
DAYDAWN

O.B. No. 244 attacked in position 056° 01' North 015° 10' West 2 ships torpedoed. VICTORIA, Greek, (6065 tons) large hole in engine room abandoned likely to remain afloat. DAYDAWN, (4768 tons) British, sunk. All survivors picked up am proceeding. Wind West Force 5 B 6 sea 34. (CASTLETON, 0700/21, to C.in C. W.A.)

My 0700. Amend position to 56.17 N., 14.21 W. (CASTLETON, 1342/21)
VICTORIA found derelict and abandoned in 56.08 N., 14.20 W. at 1015/21.
Consider tug could salve when weather moderates. (MALCOLM, 1733/21).

CREE

British 4791 tons. S/M Raider, 54.25 N., 19.40 W. S/M on surface, rough sea, clear, cloud 4000. (Land's End, received 1120/21) SAGUENAY, SKEENA, ST. LAURENT and OTTAWA ordered to attack s/m. (C.in C. W.A., 1135/21) Have you sighted CREE? (C.in C. W.A. to OTTAWA, 1907/21) Your 1907. No. Now proceeding to R.V. No contact. OTTAWA A/S defective, suspected broken raft. Weather. (OTTAWA, 2030/21)
54.39 N., 18.20 W., CREE torpedoed, sinking fast. (Vallatia Radio 2228/21) Detach one ship to assist CREE, torpedoed (position and time as Valentia). (C.in C. W.A. 2341/21)
CREE was ex S.L.53 (Slow). (D.O.R.)

ST. GERMAIN
(torpedoed 17/11)

Crew of M/V St.GERMAIN of the Saint Line, London, landed safely at Londonderry 1200/21. No casualties.
Torpedoed in 55° 40' North, 08° 40' West, 1920/17. Ship not seen to sink.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry, 1744/21).

Submarines Reported.

1142. D.F., probable U/Boat, 55° N., 20° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1231/21).

0600 G.M.T. A.F. message 56.01 N., 15.10 W.) (D.D.I.C.,
1012 G.M.T. " " 54.25 N., 19.40 W.) 1249/21).
1042 G.M.T. " " 55.00 N., 20.00 W.)

1929. D.F., probable U-boat 55°-56° N., 13°-15° W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2008/21).

2031. D.F., probable Italian U-boat, 48.10 N., 15.20 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2126/21)

2228 G.M.T. A.F. message 54.39 N., 18.50 W. (D.D.I.C. 2359/21).

/ 0047 ....

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

0047. 56° to 58° N., 11° to 15° W., very indefinite position (D.S. 443).

0145. 57.30 to 59° N., 16° to 19° W., indefinite position (D.S. 443).

1412. 53 to 54° N., 13 to 15° W., indefinite position (D.S. 444).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian
1 in Bay of Biscay about 5° W. bound for Gironde.
1 in N.W. Approaches probably N.E. of Rockall.
1 probably Italian in 54° 25' N. 19° 40' W. at 1112/21.

German
1 off Sierra Leone.
1 about 250 miles N.W. of Finisterre.
1 in 56° 01' N. 15° 10' W. at 0700/21.
1 in about 55° N. 20° W.
1 within about 50 miles S.E. or S. of Rockall.
1 between 58° N. and between 16° and 19° W.
1 in about 60° N. 21° W.
1 off Muckle Flugga homeward bound.
1 N.W. of Shetlands outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1319/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Indications that JEAN BART may shortly proceed to Toulon. RICHELIEU may also attempt to do so. H.M.G. have decided that JEAN BART and RICHELIEU shall not be allowed to proceed into the Mediterranean or to German occupied ports. Vichy Government are being informed through Ambassador, Madrid, that these movements cannot be permitted. On information being received of such a movement Force H is to proceed to sea and take up a position to the Eastward and be prepared to intercept. It is realised that sufficient forces are not available to prevent these ships going to either destination. Following signal is to be made to either RICHELIEU or JEAN BART (begins) H.M.G. have informed the French Government t at ship cannot be allowed to proceed inside the Mediterranean. It is requested you return to Casablanca. (ends).
Air, destroyer, and S/M patrols are to be consituted to give warning of either of these ships approaching the straits subject to other operations which Force H has to carry out not being interfered with.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0404/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0404/3. Patrols are being established S.O.Force H. views as regards interception of th se ships with which I concur are as follows. Unless Spanish territorial waters are infringed interception will probably have to be deferred until ships are 155 miles East of Gibraltar. To comply with your para. 6 Force H will not be available for interception after p.m./5. If French persist in spite of warning given via Madrid they will probably support movement with all available forces and may support final portion of passage to Oran in dark hours. Is it desired French ships should be engaged under any circumstances, or should action be restricted to conditions which promise achievement of object without loss to ourselves which would effect execution of COAT* WHITE or COLLAR. It is assumed full consideration has been given to effect on operation COAT French may retali te as the result of an engagement prior to the arrival of COAT.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1210/3).

Leclerc seen today sunday. Larminat also present. De Gaulle's decision to attack at once is based partly on fear of reinforcements from Dakar and partly on receipt of reliable information of unexpected ships entering (?Gulf) of Gambia. Leclerc disappointed at refusal of direct British support and enquired what indirect support he could expect.

/Informed

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation Against Vichy French.

Informed him that original instructions to prevent enemy reinforcements still valid and that my patrol for this purpose would automatically provide cover for his forces against seaborne (? attack) during operations. I would have 2 cruisers and 2 A/A vessels on patrol on proposed days. I have also since informed him of contents of Admiralty 1502/3. Projecteddate of actual attack is 6/11 or 7/11. (C.S.I., 2017A/3 to Adty.)

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

NEWCASTLE. My 0218/5 para.A(1).

1. C.in C. W.A. is to prepare NEWCASTLE to sail for Gibraltar on 9/11 routeing her south of Ireland.

2. On arrival at Gibraltar NEWCASTLE is to come under the temporary orders of F.O. Force H. who is requested to inform NEWCASTLE as to the time and date she is required to arrive at Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1114/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

(i) Discussion with forces Nairobi have taken place recently and are continuing to make plans for capture of Kismayu in mid-January. Code name for operation is CANVAS. Military hope to complete operation in 5 days.

(ii) Naval co-operation envisaged is:-
(a) bombardment of shore (? batteries) and town on final day.
(b) Cover landing of 300 Saboteurs near town.
(c) Capture of enemy ships escaping.
(d) Anti-Aircraft support.
(e) Prevent interference from seaward.
(f) Provide security to seaborne supplies.

/(iii)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Hoped to have "C" class cruisers and an anti-aircraft sloop available.

(iv) Naval bombardment of Kismayu has been long contemplated but ships have not been available. Military are now strongly averse to bombardment before above operation which they consider would be prejudiced thereby.

(v) I have under consideration bombardment of Ras Hafun by DORSETSHIRE on her passage from Aden to Durban about mid-November.
(C.in C. E.I. 1834Z/6 to Adty).

8.11.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation STRIPE.

A. On parting from A/S escort FURIOUS and DIDO are to proceed to Freetown at best speed, FURIOUS to report expected time of arrival when within 300 miles of Freetown.

(b) Ships are then to be sailed for Takoradi as ordered by C.in C. S.A. to fly off 34 Hurricanes, returning thence to Freetown and to U.K.

(c) The operation is to be carried out with the utmost expedition.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1603/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A.T. 1603/8. FURIOUS will also have some Fulmar spares required at Takoradi to enable unserviceable Fulmars now there to proceed to Egypt where Fleet urgently need them.
2. Most of these items are too large to be flown off in Hurricanes.
3. Request you will consider transferring these to DIDO at Freetown if you consider she could enter Takoradi to unload them during the operation.
4. Alternatively request you will arrange for their immediate onward shipment from Freetown.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2014/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

9.11.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Special Service Brigade.

1. On completion of alterations to ANTWERP MALINES and ST. HELIER they are to be sailed for Milford Haven for working up period.

2. Arrangements have been made with the Brigadier Special Service Brigade to embark troops for training at Milford Haven.

4. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is to arrange anchorage suitable for practising night landing operations, and for drifter tenders to the ships concerned.
(D.O.D.(H) 1245/9).

10.11.1940.
Sunday.

Operations.

TALISMAN'S Operation.

TALISMAN is to sail for patrol 16/11 to relieve TRIDENT.

B. A prize crew of six under Lieutenant Minshall R.N.V.R. is to be taken in TALISMAN. Lieutenant MINSHALL will be in uniform and the remainder in plain clothes.

C. On arrival in patrol area endeavour should be made to seize a Tunnyboat. After putting the prize crew aboard it may be desirable to transfer an equivalent number of the Tunny boat's crew to TALISMAN. It will probably be best for TALISMAN to remain with the prize for a short period so as to give time for the prize crew to make certain that the Tunny boat selected is in every way suitable.

D. Thereafter TALISMAN will take no further part in this operation and is to patrol off LORIENT. Unless the situation requires it, no situation report is to be made by TALISMAN until her return to harbour.

E. The object of the prize will be to observe the movement of U/Boats in and out of LORIENT. The longer the prize can remain off LORIENT therefore, without arousing suspicion, the more likely she is to achieve her object. Alternatively one or two of the prize crew could be landed on ISLE DE GROIX &/or BELLE ISLE by FOLBOT and collected later by the

/prize.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

TALISMAN'S Operation. (Contd.)

prize.

F. On leaving the vicinity of Lorient, the prize is to return to England independently in order to bring back the necessary information.

H. C.O. TALISMAN and Lieutenant Minshall are to discuss the plan of action before TALISMAN sails and S.S. is to inform C.in C. W.A. and V.A.(S) of any alteration to the plan that may be considered necessary.
(V.A.S. 1011/10 to S.S.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Operation Rope. DORSETSHIRE.

My 1834/6. DORSETSHIRE is to be prepared to bombard DANTE on passage from Aden to Durban. Operation will be called operation Rope. S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to issue detailed orders and to signal summary to me. Object is destruction (a) shipping, if any, and (b) target(s) of Military importance e.g. oil tanks coast and anti-aircraft defences pier, Note. Hitting village is to be avoided.

(iii) Method of execution.
(C.in C. E.I. 1916Z/10 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

14.11.1940.
Thursday.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Collar".

Anticipate leaving Gibraltar for operation Collar shortly before dawn 24/11 passage of Narrows being undertaken night 26/27. Intend calling reinforcement of Force F. and remainder of my unit, Force B. Please signal date for D. One. 3 Force H. Destroyers in addition to HOTSPUR available to escort Force F. to Malta. Do you intend adding to this number?
(S.O.Force H, 1643/14 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

17.11.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Expidition. to Jan Mayen Island.

Your 2246/16. German trawler FRIESE intercepted and destroyed crew and personnel At German Air Force Meteorological expedition total of 22 on board NAIAD. W/T Station and accommodation on island destroyed. Intend to proceed to Scapa. My position 069° 22'N., 007° 55'W.
(C.S.15 0225/17).

Instructions for disposal of prisoners.
(D.N.I. 1320/17).

C.in C. H.F. 0947/17. 539 WZ not received by H.M.S. NAIAD. Intend to pass east of Faroes and thence by QZS 15. H.M.S. NAIAD having dragged again on 21/11 request E buoy if available. 22 German prisoners on board including 5 officers.
(C.S.15 1750/17 to C.in C. H.F.)

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

German Expidition to Jan Mayen.

A. Time of interception and sinking of trawler FRIESE by NAIAD.

B. Whether NAIAD took any action on shore at Jan Mayen before or after this interception.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0021/19 to C.in C. H.F. C.S.15).

Your 0021/19 HINRICH FRIESE sighted by NAIAD at 1030/16. After a chase the enemy trawler ran ashore North of South East Cape at 1056/16 During afternoon 15/11 W/T Station ashore was broken up and hut burnt. After enemy trawler ran ashore nine Germans jumped overboard. Seven of these were rescued from beach two were drowned. Times are B.S.T.
(C.in C. H.F. 1243/19 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Your 1310/20. If ROYAL SOVEREIGN is fit for service, it is important that she should be sailed as soon as possible to Halifax to join North Atlantic Escort Force. She should not therefore be employed in Operation "Collar" unless you consider it essential.

Except for the addition of the battleship referred to in H.Q.I.C. Malta's 0211/21, the concentration to which you refer does not appear to be unusual.
(1st S.L. 0217/22 to F.O. Force H).

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

W.R. to Adty. 2325/29/11. It will never be possible to say that the Fleet Anchorage is secure from torpedo bomber attack.

During the last 6 months a great deal has been done. A great deal however remains to be done and to be perfected.

2. The Chief points which cause me anxiety are as follows:-
(A.C.O.S. 1300/1).

2.12.1940.
Monday.

British Air Operations.

Arrangements have been made by Fighter Command for 20 Hamptons to stand by as a night fighter patrol in important areas which are objectives of heavy air attack. Areas of naval interest are Liverpool, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton. 3. Request arrangements be made for restrictions on gunfire of H.M.Ships in patrol areas concerned. These arrangements come into effect night 5/3/12.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1307/2).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HERMES
DRAGON.

Admty. 1917/24/11 HERMES DRAGON sailed Freetown 3/12 proceeding St. Helena by way of neighbourhood of Ascension carrying out air search south of latitude 005° S. Then operate St. Helena area until (date) when will refuel and replenish aviation spirit at St. Helena subsequently operating western edge of St. Helena Cape Route.
(C.in C. S.A. 1905N/4 to Admty).

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Monsoon" (a repeat Stripe).

My 1349/4. FURIOUS will not repedition not refit on return but will be required to carry out repeat operation STRIPE to be known as MONSOON. Aircraft to be embarked at Liverpool will be about forty Hurricanes with wings off, three Fulmars, possible five Mohawks, and will retain six Skuas. FURIOUS to report on arrival to R.A.N.A.S. whether any Skuas will require replacement. Admiralty and Air Ministry representatives will visit ship on arrival to settle details. FURIOUS will be required to be loaded ready to sail by December 17th.
(D.O.D.(H) 1852/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Duala - Cotonou Cable.

G/2086 cipher. 7/12.

Possibility of cutting the Duala-Cotonou Cable and attaching it to Lagos cable Station. Secret and rapid communication Lagos - Duala would be provided thereby. Present communication is by wireless only. Understand proposal is feasible if cable ship available and am informed in past repairs this cable normally carried out by our ships. I do not know whether proposal if carried would constitute act of war. Present position is that cable is out of use and I recommend that consideration be given proposal.
(G.O.C. West Africa 0930/7 to W.O).

8.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation P.V.1.

738. Following operation is to be known as P.V.One.

1. Object. To locate and destroy E/Boats mine-laying in the Swept Channel.

2. Locality. From Northeast Swin Light Buoy to position 033 degrees 10 miles from position Z.

3. Information. It has been found that powerful red-orange Very's lights and groups of amber lights fired from aircraft usually indicate E/Boats activity.

4. Forces taking part. (a) A/P vessels on patrol ½ mile Eastward of channel work and report from Northern navigational mark of their patrol line. Positions H.Q to H V.
(b) A/S vessels when ordered are stationed on Northern side of certain navigational marks.
(c) M/S vessels when on patrol remain on the landward side of the A/P line.

/(d)

MOST SECRET.

8.12.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Operation P.V.1. (Contd.)

(d) Patrol O. Two destroyers in company.

(e) Aircraft from 16 group with flares and cannon guns.

5. 16 Group will be given available information by C.in C. Nore concerning patrols and convoys.

6. Reporting. Special instructions have been issued to Harwich patrol forces by F.O.I.C. Harwich. Copy to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth. There are certain other sources from which the plot can guide aircraft patrol to positions indicated by fighter command co-ordinates.

7. General Plan. On selected nights C.in C. Nore will signal operation P.V. one will be carried out between stated times. Aircraft from 16 Group will then patrol locality given in para.2 between those times. Any reports of E/Boats activity will be received and plotted in operation room Harwich which will be in R/T. communication with aircraft. Aircraft acting on information thus received and from observation of enemy signals and movements have full liberty to attack to the Eastward of A/P patrol line dropping or towing flares as necessary.

8. Method of execution. Patrol vessels sighting or hearing E/Boats are to make an enemy report to F.O.I.C. Harwich drop a flare float and steer eastward the plot at Harwich will then direct patrolling aircraft to position of flame float for offensive action to be taken.

9. C.in C. Rosyth is requested to pass this signal to ships of R.E.F.Commodore i/c Sheerness passing it to any of these ships at Sheerness.
(C.in C. Nore 1050/8).

Your 1050/8. Propose patrol O between stated times of operation P.V. one shall be between lat. of Aldebrough Light Float and No.5 Buoy in Swept Channel to south of F.N. Convoy.
(D.16 1716/8 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.1940.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shipping for Transport of troops from U.K. to M.E.

Your 1709/7. Re release of 14 ships hitherto employed on trooping in Indian Ocean.

2. As much shipping as possible is required in next few months for movement of troops U.K. to M.E.

3. Request report whether any of above ships and/or others could be made available for this purpose having regard to possible future commitments in Indian Ocean including onward conveying of U.S.8 and subsequent U.S. Convoys probably at six-weekly intervals.

4. Desiderata for any ships so employed are (a) Sea speed not less than 14 knots (b) Endurance in water and fuel to proceed from U.K. to Cape without replenisment i.e. 25 day voyage.
(D. of S.T. 1722/9 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

Australia.

Naval Reinforcements required.

Commonwealth Naval Board have had situation of Australian station under review in the light of recent raider and minelayer activities. Our essential commitments of troop convoys, freight ships, men of empire air training scheme, equipment for Middle East and other shipping Indian and Pacific Oceans, are heavy. We are finding it extremely difficult to meet them with rescources now at our disposal. It is realized your 1917/24/11 will help later.

2. Our 2 main needs are

(a) To have cruiser or A.M.C. cover available from time to time on trade routes (? of these) focal areas. Enemy attack has largely been carried out in such areas.

(b) To augment our M/S organisation.
Regarding these 2 requirements it should be pointed out we have to some extent during recent months been escorting our convoys as far as Colombo or Bombay, escorting troops to Darwin and Port Moresby. In view of raider attack vicinity Nauru some naval units will be required in this connection. Regarding (b) PARRAMATTA and YARRA are of course no longer available to us. Unavoidably mineable areas are very large and distance between them great. Large delays to shipping are already being imposed. Fitting of P.V's to all ships still has a long way to go.

/3.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Naval reinforcements required.

3. The following proposals are therefore put forward for your consideration.

(a) WESTRALIA and either PERTH or SYDNEY to return to Australian station.

(b) First 4 BATHURST's to remain on Australian station until first 4 Australian A.M.S's become available or minelaying situation improves.

The A.C.N.S. are reluctant to ask for ships which are also urgently required elsewhere - but consider situation now makes this unavoidable.
(Naval Board, Melbourne, 0710Z/9).

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Jan Mayen.

It has been decided to seize Jan Mayen Island with the object of denying the island to the Germans. A W/T station will be erected so that weather reports can be transmitted.

2. The expedition will be under the command of Captain Ullring and will start from Iceland.

3. Suitable ships and boats will be allocated by Admiralty.

4. Personnel will be provided from Norwegians already in Iceland. Strength of landing party will be about sixteen men.

5. Hut accommodation will be shipped from U.K.

6. Request you will signal other requirements of stores, provisions, arms, ammunition etc. which cannot be supplied from Icelandic resources.
(D.O.D.(H) 1743/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Kismayu. I am planning another bombardment of Kismayu early January when I expect SHROPSHIRE and SOUTHAMPTON will be available. I hope Air Force will be able to co-operate with bombing.
(C.in C. E.I. 1902Z/12 to Adty).

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration". Your 2100/13 makes it clear that it is particularly desired that a convoy is to be intercepted while escort is still present. Not been possible to do this in Mediterranean because escorts hitherto have not proceeded as far as French territorial waters. Forces have been ordered to intercept convoy whether escorted or not, either outside Spanish territorial waters or inside French territorial waters. To intercept an escorted convoy, operation must be carried out in Atlantic between Casablanca and French-Spanish border South of Cape Spartel. Having regard to surface A/S vessels, submarines, and air forces available at Casablanca, a considerable force will be required but owing to difficulty of obtaining timely warning of convoy sailings our force must be kept at sea.

Although I have no wish to exaggerate difficulty of this operation I have to draw attention to the local aspects and consider the provision of adequate and efficient force(s) I must therefore request further instructions.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0110/14 to Adty). See also North Atlantic - A.C.N.S. (F) 0156/14).

My 0110- para 1 (One) insert after "My force however" - "In these operations on both occasions.". (F.O.C.N.A., 0950/14)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation P. V. One.

1. Object. To locate and destroy E/Boats.

2. Information. It has been found that powerful red-orange Verey Lights and groups of amber lights fired from aircraft usually indicate E/Boat activity.

3. Locality. Area between swept channel and Mine Barrier between lat. of B.8. (N.E.Swin) Light Buoy and Smiths Knoll L.F. aircraft approaching patrol via Cromer and Hammond Knoll and returning to Bircham Newton direct. F.O.I.C. Harwich to arrange for Sunk L.V. to exhibit light as required.

4. Forces taking part. (a) A/P vessels on patrol. Harwich area positions H.Q. to H.V. half a mile east of swept channel. Yarmouth area positions F.W.O. and F.W.U two miles west of swept channel. (b) A/S Vessels when ordered are stationed on northern side of certain navigational marks.
(c) M/M Vessels when on patrol remain on landward side of A/P line.
(d) Patrol O. Two destroyers in company in Swept Channel between latitude of Aldeburgh and Smiths Knoll L.F's.
(e) Aircraft from 16 Group with flares and cannon gun (When available) or bombs.

5. F.O.I.C. Harwich will pass by T/P at about 1545 to 16 Group and Bircham Newton information available concerning patrols and convoys.

6. Reporting. Harwich and Yarmouth patrol forces received special instructions for this. Certain other sources of information will also be used.

7. Ordering the operation. On days when it seems probable that conditions after dark will be suitable for E/Boats C.in C. Nore will signal operation P.V.One will be carried out between stated times the first time mentioned being the time aircraft will start patrol from Smiths Knoll L.F. Bircham Newton will report by T/P at 1730 whether conditions appear suitable for the operation. It may however be cancelled later.

/8.

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation P.V.One. (Contd.)

8. Method of execution. Aircraft will patrol in area given in para.3 between times ordered. Patrol vessels sighting or bearing E/Boats are to make an enemy report to F.O.I.C. Harwich, drop a flame float and steer to the westward. Harwich operations room will plot any reports of E/Boat activity and will direct aircraft by R/T to the position for offensive action. Aircraft acting on information received thus, or on sighting a flame float have full liberty to attack surface craft recognised as E/Boats eastward of the A/P Patrol Line, dropping or towing flares as necessary. Initially parachute flares should be dropped in pairs to indicate that friendly aircraft are attacking enemy surface forces.

9. C.in C. Rosyth is requested to promulgate this order to ships of R.E.F., Commodore Sheerness passing it to any of these ships at Sheerness.
(C.in C. Nore 2000/16).

Following operation is to be known as P.V.3.

1. On nights when it is desired to search with flares along tracks without waiting as in P.V. one for reports of E/Boats, operation P.V.3. will be ordered instead of P.V.one.

2. Object. To locate and destroy E/Boats.

3. Forces taking part. As in P.V.One.

4. C.in C. Nore will signal operation P.V.3. will be carried out commencing at time stated stated and will indicate track or tacks which flares are required. Time stated will be time of dropping first flare.

NOTE. There is no fixed locality for this operation as in P.V.One.

5. F.O.I.C. Harwich will pass to Bircham Newton requisite information concerning patrols and convoys, Bircham Newton reporting at about 1730 whether conditions appear suitable for the operation.

6. Harwich Patrol forces have special instructions which should make it possible for Harwich to indicate to the aircraft off shore areas through which E/Boats may pass.

/7.

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

7. Method of execution. Aircraft will drop approximately 20 flares at intervals of 3½ minutes and will circle each flare so as to achieve a speed of advance of about 60 knots. Aircraft will attack any surface craft definitely identified as an E/Boat. Harwich operations room will maintain R/T communication with the aircraft. Patrol vessels are to act as in P.V.One.

8. C.in C. Rosyth is requested to promulgate this operation order to ships to the R.E.F., Commodore Sheerness passing it to any of these ships at Sheerness.
(C.in C. Nore 2252/16).

20.12.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Jan Mayen. Reference telegram 1307/13 December from Flag Officer in charge to Admiralty. Understand from Flag Officer in charge that proposal is to send small Norwegian force to garrison Jan Mayen Island. Admiralty have implied that Norwegian personnel for this garrison is to be found from my Norwegian detachment in Iceland. My Norwegians now fully employed in instructing infantry battalion Ski platoons and are distributed around island in this capacity. I regard formation and training of these Ski platoons as matter of considerable importance and am very averse to losing my instructors when results are beginning to show. I have informed Flag Officer i/c that if absolutely essential and if agreed to by you I am prepared provide up to 8 Norwegian O/R but not my officer. Suggest however that as expedition being organized in U.K. preferable find personnel from amongst Norwegian Units there.
(ALABASTER, Reykjavik 1342/20 to War Office).

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

DELUGE — At 1140/22 (D.C. 1149/22). At 2330/22 (D.C. 2338/22)

Movements

WHALERS — L.L. Whalers SKUDD 3, SKUDD 4, SKUDD 5 and SWONA to be mailed when ready to Ponta Delgada thence to Bathurst and Freetown, not to pass within 20 miles of French territory. Route and fuelling to be arranged (D.O.D.(F) (1134/22) to C. in C. W.A.

PORTSMOUTH — Night movements (C. in C. Portsmouth 1517/22)

ORKNEYS AND SHETLANDS — Trawler lines to-night (F.O.C.O.S. 1525/22)

HESPERUS — My 1039/21. As HIGHLANDER not available propose HESPERUS replaces her escorting Convoy Sailing Liverpool p.m./23. (C. in C. W.A. 1600/22)

ROSYTH — Movements at 2000/22/23 (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/22).

LA MOQUEUSE — My 1535/22 (Western Channel night report) add French Sloop M/S LA MOQUEUSE and 1 M.V. Dartmouth Plymouth 0930 (C. in C. W.A. 1813/22 amended.by 1949/22

M.V. — My 1535/22. Add one M.V. Weymouth Falmouth 1630. 0900 (C. in C. W.A. 2149/22)

BENTE MAERSK — My 1319/22 (BENTE MAERSK to R/V with 3 A/S Trawlers) Cancel. (C. in C. W.A. 1827/22)

NORTHERN PATROL LINES — Amendment to 1510/9/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 1642/22)

Operations.

Operation P.V. (Attack on enemy invasion practice at Ostend). — Operation P.V. will be carried out to-night 22/11. As in Admiralty 1413/21 CAMPBELL (D.21) GARTH, EGLINTON; QUORN taking part (Details) (C. in C. Nore 1246/22 to D.21) Admiralty 1413/21. Owing to breakdown CAMPBELL Capt. D. 21 is embarking in FERNIE for operation as A.S.V. is considered essential. (C. in C. Nore 1650/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth) Have embarked in FERNIE and am proceeding with GARTH, EGLINGTON, QUORN (D.21, 1726/22 to C. in C. Nore)

DOVER — Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 10 rounds 22/11 shell fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery and in sea off St. Margarets Bay. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A. Dover 1846/22 to Admiralty.

/DENMARK STRAITS .....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd.)

DENMARK STRAITS — A Patrol of Denmark Straits to be established as soon as can be arranged. (D.O.D. (H) 2152/22 to F.O.C.N.P).

Submarines.

POSITIONS — For following 24 hours at 0800/23 (V.A.S. 1719/22).

British Air Activity (1)

EAST COAST CONVOY PATROL — Request careful consideration of Admiralty 1935/21 to provide small standing patrol over E. Coast convoys between Sunk and Nore L.V's (Air Min. 1035/22 to Fighter Command.

BALLOON BARRAGE — Your A.594/20/11 and Admiralty 1630/19 request may be informed at what date minesweepers and ships will commence fly V.L.A. Balloons at other points around coast between Solent and Thames Estuary. Also areas in which they will fly balloons. (H.Q.F.C. 1305/22 to Air Min)

PATROLS — Assessments (C. in C. Rosyth 1756/22, 2214/22)

ESCORTS — For 23/11 (C. in C. Rosyth 1820/22)

ESCORT OF RODNEY — 3 Hudson A/C will leave datum line 360° Strathic Point daylight 23/11 carry out search to 8° 30' W. Then fly 30 miles N and return. If RODNEY is sighted 1 A/C will remain as escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 2340/22 to RODNEY)

British Air Activity (2)

MERCHANT VESSEL ATTACKED — One M/V about 3-4000 tons moving W at 10 - 12 knots at 1615 in position 53° 38'N., 6° 18'E, A/C attacked from 3000 ft. to 60 ft. at right angles to E.V.S. course on starboard beam. Torpedo broke surface and did not run. M/V undamaged and kept her course. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2022/22 to H.Q. Coastal Command)

BREST — A/C of 53 Squadron to destroy Power Station and Dock Facilities on Night 23/24 (H.G.C.C. 1312/22 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

Enemy Air Activity (1)

DAGENHAM — Refloated p.m.f.21 passed Medway Gate 1650 in tow of tugs, proceeding Jenkins Buoy (C. in C. Nore 0821/22).

FISHPOOL (bombed 14/11) — (British M.V. 4950tons) In tow 0800/22, 54° 12'N 10° 43'W, 45° speed 6 knots (GARDENIA, 0902/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

CONVOY TOTEM — 1 Enemy A/C shadowing o70° distant 10 miles from

/Convoy.....

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Enemy Air Activity (1)(Contd).

Convey Totem. My position 51° 31'N, 1° 19'E. 320°speed 7 knots (FERNIE, 0930/22).

CONVOY S.C.11 — Reported by enemy A/C 0755 G.M.T. (C. in C. W.A. 0943/22 to OTTAWA)

PORTSMOUTH — Air Attack on area 0400/22. Two H.E. bombs exploded S. of Prater, damage to roofs etc, also ? one U.X.B. H.E. also in sea by Lee on Solent and Ryde Pier. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1108/22 to Admiralty) A.L. C.E. in C. 02040/4A of 22/6/40 para.2 air raid 22/11 caused damage at Prater mine depot (details) (Superintending C.E. Portsmouth, 1845/22 to C.E. in C. Admiralty.)

GUILLEMOT — Enemy A/C attacking. My position 51° 53'N, 1° 35'E. (GUILLEMOT, 1141/22)
My 1141/22 enemy's course 090° (GUILLEMOT, 1146/22)
One bomb no hits (GUILLEMOT, 1145/22)
Fighters have been sent to your assistance (C. in C. Nore 1149/22 to GUILLEMOT).

HEBRIDES — 1 German bomber circled over Cavlernish and proceeded westward to sea. Wick informed by R.A.F. (F.O.I.C. Stornoway 1220/22 to A.C.O.S).

FAERONS — Dornier Seaplane passed low over THORSHAVN, 1725/22 Fired on at long range no effect. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1750/22 to A.C.O.S.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
Z.M.E.3.

Intend to sail from Milford Haven 1800/22 lay mines 2330 returning to Milford Haven 0300/23.
(ADVENTURE 0950/22.)

Operation
S.N.11.

R.A.M.L. 1008/21 and C.in C. H.F. 1959/21. R.A.M.L. proposals approved. A gap of six miles is to be left between the minefield and the coast.
(D.O.D.(H) 1040/22).

My 1008/21 S.N.11 as follows: All times B.S.T.

A. Surface Minefield.
D.One. SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHES, PORT QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER, AGAMEMNON, BATH, ST.ALBANS, ST.MARYS.
D.Two. Ocean escort. AURORA.
Covering Force. F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. in HOOD.
F. From 66° 31.3' N., 23° 18.1 ' W In 327° direction to 113 fathom line 1330/23.
L. About 1130/26.
M. SOUTHERN PRINCE during Lay.
O. Port ZA 29/11.
(R.A.M.L. 1056/22).

R.A.M.L's 1056/22 AURORA is to R/V with 1st M.L.S. at entrance to Inner Sound 1530/23.

B.C. One in HOOD screened by four destroyers is to sail from Scapa p.m./23 to cover the operation.
(C.in C. H.F. 1653/22).

M.L.127
Blown up.

Motor Launch 127 blown up by mine in position 51° 49' N., 1° 25' 30" E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1211/22.)

My 1211 some doubt concerning cause of explosion. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1552/22).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Hartlepool.

M/S Trawlers with chain sweep detonated acoustic mine in 54° 38' 50"N., 01° 08' 21" W., at 1231 today. Chain sweep fitted with rattles was improvised at Hartlepool.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1247/22).

Tug HERCULES Sunk.

Tug HERCULES mined and sunk 112° 2750 yards from P.W.S.S. Tynemouth. One survivor picked up. This tug was approximately one cable South of swept Channel.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1252/22).

Speed of Destroyers in Thames Estuary.

After considering the various recommendations for speed of destroyers in waters where accoustic mines may be met it has been decided to adhere to 12 knots as the normal operational speed in the Thames Estuary, where special information of the presence of mines exists speed should be as low as practicable.
(C.in C. Nore 1255/22 to D.5, D.16, D.20, D.21.

Plymouth.
MANSFIELD.
CHESTERFIELD.

When inside 26 fathom line on entering Plymouth by Q.Z.S. 188 speed should not exceed 9 knots and as little rudder as practicable should be used. All diesel driven auxiliary machinery should be stopped.
(C.in C. W.A. 1324/22 to MANSFIELD, CHESTERFIELD.

Tyne.

One ground magnetic mine detonated by LL time 1220/22 Polarity red position 075 degs. 1 mile North Pier Light Tyne.
(P.M.S.O. North Shields 1325/22).

ETHEL TAYLOR Sunk.

A/P Trawler ETHEL TAYLOR mined in 090° 7.5 cables from North Pier Light Tyne and sank bearing 157½ from South repeat South Pier Light Tyne to South of swept Channel. Wreck has been danned but exact position cannot be given until visibility improves. Two ratings missing presumed killed. Vessel was not repeat not diesel engined. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2000/22).

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

S.S. PIKEPOOL. (3683 tons) believed mined off Smalls Light 0500/22. Survivors landed at Milford Haven. (D.O.R.)

Tyne Closed. Owing to suspected enemy minelaying Port of Tyne closed both ways to all shipping. Ships in F.N.39 being diverted into Hartlepool. Probable time of reopening 1200/23. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2355/22).

Plymouth Open by Day. Cancel my 2020/13 and 2210/20. Port of Plymouth is open between 0930 and sunset. Ships should arrive position 180° Rame Head 2.2. miles at 0930 or 1630;
(C.in C. W.A. 1330/22).

Towing of Diesel engined ships through dangerous Approach Channels. Your 1245/21s proposals should be submitted to Admiralty through C.in C. Rosyth.
(D.T.D. 1533/22 to N.C.S.O. Tyne).

* Adty. 1553/22. N.C.S.O. Tyne's 1245/21 should not have been made. If it was desired to refer to ports in Tyne area only this should have been made from F.O.I.C. Tyne. A general proposal for ports on "this coast" should have been passed through you to C.in C. Rosyth for consideration.

It must be borne in mind that tugs are not immune from accoustic mines. Request you signal to me your proposals as regards ports in Tyne area.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1852/22 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Moray Firth Approaches. Fishing vessel WHITE KNIGHT on arrival at Buckie reported having sighted newly red painted mine with five horns in 58° 10' 30" N., 3° 1' W. in 29 fathoms at 0900/22. Dan Buoy dropped by WHITE KNIGHT. Search will be made at daylight 23/11 by M/S Trawlers from Invergordon.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1535/22).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Forth.

River Forth between Grangemouth on the West and Crombie Pier on the East is closed to all traffic.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1547/22).

Tees open to Diesel engined ships.

Cancel my 1325/18/11. Tees now clear of acoustic mines.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1911/22).

Milford Haven Closed.

Port is closed owing to mines laid by Aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 2007/22).

Humber Closed.

Humber closed to navigation. Suspected minelaying.
(F.O. Humber 2155/22).

Damage to Destroyers building.

Enemy Intelligence.
It is reported that during recent air raids on Hamburg two destroyers nearing completion in shipyards were hit and severely damaged. (Air Min. D.S.491)

Cape Gris Nez.

2 merchant ships 2000 tons with 3 trawlers passing Cape Gris Nez westward at 1220. (V.A.S. 1407/22).

Brest.

Visual Air Reconnaissance of Brest 22/11, 5 destroyers observed.
(D.D.I.C. 1428/22 to C.in C. H.F.)

Merchant Vessel.

Heavily stoked ship 032° 12'N., 014° 42' W., steering at 2000, 14 knots abandoning chase. Ship not sighted.
(MARSDALE, 2030/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

R.C. Brest to Lorient.

Brest. Three destroyers. Two arrivals possibly M.T.B's. No apparent change in disposition of shipping in port militaire can be observed on small scale photograph.
Lorient. One S/M has left the dry dock leaving three. One new arrival under 400 ft. probably M/V Korgroise Quay.
(P.R.U. St. Eval, 2115/22 to H.Q.C.C.)

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CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

CLAN MACFADYEN. Reported aground, presumed Hearty Knoll. (Scapa W/T, 0440/22, F.O. Humber 0648/22, C.in C. Nore 0651/22). Great Yarmouth 22/11 departure tug KROOMAN 0715 to assistance. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0720/22). Cancel my 0440/22 (C.in C. Nore 0755/22 to EGRET).

MISS ELAINE. Engine Trouble, repairs will take about 4 days. (Chief Salvage Officer, Hull, 1159/22).

EBRO. Tug AMSTERDAM proceeding to assistance of Tug EBRO, position 52° 57'N., 5° 2'W (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1500/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

BATH. Damage by heavy seas. Submit destroyers of TOWN class not suitable for convoy duty at this speed. (R.A.M.L. 0921/22).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
F.N.39.

Position. (WESTON, 0749/22) Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne in F.N.39 to be diverted to Hartlepool. No ships from Tyne will be joining. (C.in C. Rosyth 2319/22).

W.N. 42.

Position. (BLACKFLY, 1200/22).

SUDERHOLM
ERNTE MARSK

N.C.S.O. Swansea to sail from Southend, 1130/25. Escort, FERNIE, CLEVELAND, 3 A/S trawlers, 4 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.S. vessels, M.L's if weather permits. (C.in C. Nore 1600/22).

Air Escort.

Your 1131/19, para. III, A/S air escort for Atlantic Convoy. 2 Sunderlands sent, one returned, weather, second failed to meet R.L. (C.in C. Rosyth 1712/22).

E.N. 31.

Sail at 1500/24 and act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 31 sailing 1830/24.

W.N. 44.

On meeting transfer to W.N.44 due Cape Wrath 0030/25. (C.in C. Rosyth 2151/22 to HASTINGS)

H.X.85)
H.X.86)

May have been sighted by Italian U-boat. (D.D.I.C., 2230/22 to HELIOTROPE, CASTLETON), SABRE and SARDONYX to join H.X.85 (C.in C. W.A., 2222/22).

S.C.11.

Reported by enemy aircraft at 0755 G.M.T. (C.in C. W.A., to OTTAWA, 0943/22)

C.E.17.

Passed Dover at 0830. (V.A. Dover to Admty. 0746/22).

E.N.30.

DANEMAN and HORNPIPE. Additional escort GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2320/22.)

S.L.54.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1521/22 to WALKER, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, etc.)

Routes.

Cancel my 1007/15. Substitute following. (C.in C. S.A., 0908/22)

Iceland.

My 1235/18/?9. Merchant Ships other than transports and store ships chartered by the Ministry of Shipping remain subject to the Icelandic Regulations Customs Clearance and must enter one of five controlled Ports on arrival from United Kingdom before proceeding elsewhere. (F.O. Iceland 0832/22).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

S/M Escort, Halifax Convoys

It has been decided that a submarine shall occasionally accompany Homeward Bound Halifax convoys, preferably those with weak ocean escort.
PORPOISE has been detailed for this duty. She will be ready to leave U.K. on 26/11 C.in C. W.A. requested to sail her for Halifax.
(D.O.D.(H) 2341/22).

Troop Convoys.
ORDUNA
ADDA

My 1301/20. Omit CATHAY, FORTHBANK, (C.in C. W.A., 1029/22). Intend sailing ORDUNA for Bermuda and ADDA for Freetown escorted by HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK and HURRICANE 1800/23, to R.V. with A.M.C's from Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0959/22)
Your 1039/21, re destroyer escort. HIGHLANDER will not be available owing to defect.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1503/22 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 1039/21. HIGHLANDER not available, propose HESPERUS replace her (C.in C. W.A. to Admty., 1600/22).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

WINNIPEG
DJENNE

Sailed 1400/21) Both from Liverpool for
Sails 1600/23) Gibraltar with safe conduct from British and German Governments. (C.in C. W.A., 1431/22).

CUBA.

Your 2015/14. This information should be withheld from French as long as possible. If N.A. presses enquiries he may be told CUBA has been taken in for examination. (Hd. of M. to N.A., Madrid, 1159/22). CUBA left 26/10 Fort de France for Casablanca with 1250 passengers and cargo. French Embassy very anxious for information as no news of her. (N.A. Madrid to Admty., 2007/22.

Libreville
Defence.

C.S.I's 1235/21. Presume you are able to supply material. (D. of L.D., to C.in C. S.A. 2113/22).

INDOCHINOIS

My 1759/18, (proposal that COLONIAL should embark passengers). N.C.S.O. St. Vincent now reports COLONIAL her full cabin accommodation and Master will not take deck passengers. (C.in C. S.A., 1116/22).

North Atlantic.

ARGUS
NORFOLK

Apart from considerations in A.T. 1915/20, could it be arranged to sail ARGUS for U.K. to R.V. with NORFOLK in position about 38° N., 15° W., at noon/25? (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1404/22). Your 1404. ARGUS degaussing defective owing damage in heavy weather. Repairs reported to complete about 30/11. (F.O.C.N.A. 1626/22). Cancel Admty. 1404/22 as ARGUS must remain Gibraltar until completion of Board of Inquiry. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2111/22).

CLAN FORBES
Operation
"Collar"

Instruct CLAN FORBES to dismount as much as possible of her disguise by dawn 25/11. She is required to represent a cargo vessel. (S.O. Force H to SHEFFIELD, 2127/22).

My 0405/19 para. VII F.O.C. 18th C.S. prefers that after Force "P" has parted company corvettes should in any case proceed south of Skerki bank and arrive 0800 rendezvous on D.6.
In view of large alteration of course required during passage of narrow at night and possibility that corvettes may be unable to keep up, I concur.
If you agree request V.A. Malta will signal route for corvettes clear of that for Force "P". (S.O.Force H,2200/22, to C.in C. Med.)

/ Operation "Collar", ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Collar", ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 0217/22. From information available it appears Italians can concentrate in Western Basin three battleships, five to seven 8" cruisers, several 6" cruisers, and other light forces, between time Force H leaves Gibraltar and critical period during passage south of Sardinia.
Against this Force RENOWN, three modern and one old six inch Cruisers have to protect 15 knots convoy and effect concentration midday with RAMILLIES, NEWCASTLE, and COVENTRY.
Unless possibility of Italian concentration can be definitely excluded, I consider employment of ROYAL SOVEREIGN in operation Collar essential.
Presence of ROYAL SOVEREIGN with M.T. ships will enable Force H to support RAMILLIES if threatened before concentration. (S.O. Force H, 0910/22, to Admty.)
Your 0910/22. Approved for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to be included in Operation Collar. (D.O.D.(F), 1708/22)

Your 1708/22. Am informed by F.O.C.N.A. that further examination of ROYAL SOVEREIGN's boiler indicates that it is unlikely that she can be made ready for sea before 27/11. Under these circumstances we must rely on Italians displaying their usual lack of initiative.
(S.O. Force H, 1911/22, to Admty.)

Your 0910/22. I consider your statement unduly pessimistic. Available information shows there is only one CAVOUR Class battleship in western basin. Chance of any serious concentration against your force appears more remote now than in any previous operation since HATS, more especially as three Mediterranean Battleships will be in central area.
(C.in C. Med., 2315/22).

PUNGUE.

For M.E.W. PUNGUE Lobito to Lisbon, 5800 tons general cargo and mail. Has certificate of origin but no Navicert as ship was calling at San Thome where there is no British Consul. Request mail be removed. Not advisable at sea. No cargo embarked at San Thome. Is ship to be diverted to Gibraltar to remove mail? Request early decision as KINGSTON JACINTH is at present off her patrol and in company with PUNGUE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1233/22).

/ Your 1233/22 .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1233/22. Send FUNGUE to Gibraltar for removal of mails and detain pending instructions. (D.H.W.D. to F.O.C. N.A., 1611/22)

GEMEAUX. French schooner, 604 tons, intercepted 2000/22, 130 miles N.E. of Azores. Is being sent into Gibraltar (D.O.R. 24/11).

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS Admiralty 1753/20/10/40 and 1913/23/10/40. Brazilian SIQUEIRA CAMPOS brought in by Armed Guard, bound Brazil. Has large general cargo all covered by certificates of origin except 500 tons war material in cases, contents not detailed, from Germany consigned to Brazilian Government. Vessel has no navicert from Lisbon. Ship detained pending instructions. (Conband, Gibraltar, 1245/22).

South Atlantic.

OSTHAU Overdue Shipping. My 1106/21. Arrived East London. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0915B/22).

SITOEBONDO Overdue Shipping. My 1105/21. Cancel SITOEBONDO. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0925/22).

HARMATTAN Overdue Shipping. My 1105/21. HARMATTAN passed Cape of Good Hope 1100/22 bound Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1145/22).

NIEUW HOLLAND
SCYTHIA
DUNERA
CORNWALL

Your 1204/20. NIEUW HOLLAND has arrived Durban. In view of Admty 2215/20 am holding ship here. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0958Z/22, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
Your ? This can be arranged. Assuming you will now concur with Admty. 2215/20, I intend transfer of troops from SCYTHIA to NIEUW HOLLAND and DUNERA shall take place at Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, to C.in C. S.A., 1114B/22).
Your 2215/20. I concur. N.O.I.C. Simonstown to arrange transfer of troops. CORNWALL to take necessary action as regards movement. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty., 1859/22).

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Your 1329/18. Matter still under review. It has to be considered with other impending operations. A policy signal giving intended dispositions will be made shortly. (D.O.D., to C.in C. S.A., 1405/22).

Corvettes. Admty. 0027/21. Requesting information re W/T (C.in C. S.A., 1700/22)

/ A.M.C's .....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

A.M.C's — Your 1912/21. Details of largest drafts carried in ships. (C.in C. S.A., 2059 M/22 amended 1245/24).

A.M.C's Catapults — Your 1913/21. Request may be informed of policy regarding fitting of catapults (C.in C. S.A. 2005 M/22 to Admiralty)

Shipping. — Cancel my 1007/15 and substitute. (Routes) (C.in C. S.A., 0906/22)

A/S Vessels for Mediterranean. — Admty. 1832/18/11. General Smuts has agreed to release four A/S vessels for C.in C. Mediterranean. It is probable, however, that Union Government would prefer to send four Southern Class Whalecatchers in which full equipment is at present fitted. These are far superior vessels both in speed and seaworthiness. Vessels concerned are SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN FLOE, SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEA.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1140B/22, to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

Sunderlands. — Admty. 1310/20. This would seriously reduce an already inadequate reconnaissance, but as they are urgently required I will do without them. Presume Air Ministry will arrange with A.O.I.C. Middle East. (C.in C. Med., 1523/22).

Taranto Photographs. — My 2010/15. Photographs of Taranto are contained in item No. 5, bag No. 269, left Malta by air this day. Bag is urgently required at Admty. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0831/22, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

Greece. — Situation. (M.A. Athens to W.O. 0310/22).

Distribution, SCHEER. — Following are urgent considerations which demand some redistribution of the Fleet:-
(1) Appearance of SCHEER in North Atlantic.
(2) Uncertainty whether SCHEER has proceeded south.
(3) Probable existence of 5 enemy surface raiders in S. Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.
(4) Increasing troop reinforcements to Middle East via the Cape.
Considered imperative that raider hunting groups be formed without delay.
Proposals. (1 S.L. 0215/22 to C.in C. Med.) (See Med. Vol.)

/ Reply . ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Reply. BARHAM has serious machinery breakdown. Suggestions re VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, BERWICK, EXETER. (C.in C. Med., 1057/22, to Admty.). (See Med. Vol.)
Your 1057/22. Reasons for not withdrawing VALIANT appreciated and concurred with. Undesirable to withdraw either BARHAM or MALAYA at present.
Proposal re BERWICK and EXETER (1 S.L., 2157/22, to C.in C. Med.)
(See Med. Vol.)

Greek Ships. Re chartering. (P.S.T.O. Egypt to N.A. Athens 1943/22)

ROCHNE, Roumanian Oil. Your 1717/20. Following sent to Ambassador, Angora begins:-
Whilst importance of Turkey getting all oil possible from Roumania is appreciated doubtful whether any reliance can be placed upon Roumanian supplies being available for a period long enough to justify transfer of ROCHNE to Turkish flag. Also felt that transfer might not prevent vessel being held at Constanza. ROCHNE is one of few tankers in position for carriage of oil supplies to Greece and Turkey from Haifa and Egypt and it is considered she could be of more assistance to Turkey in that trade.
Explain our views to Turkish Government and oil company making it clear we are influenced entirely by the desire to serve Turkey's best interests. (Ends).
Unless Ambassador urges recommendation ROCHNE should be despatched to Egypt as soon as possible.
(D. of S.T., 2030/22, to C. in C. Med.)

British Air Raids. APHIS Bombardment, Maktila. Operational Summary 165. Night 20/21 Nov. 7 Blenheims bombed Sollum Bardia Tobruk Benina Berka and Benghasi. Bombs burst in target area at Sollum Bardia and Tobruk. At Benina aerodrome control building hit and several aircraft on ground damaged by small bombs and M.G. fire. Berka one large barrack building set on fire. Benghasi bombs fell near 2 ships and hit Customs House. Another large building blew up following direct hit. 1 Blenheim also dropped flares at Maktila to illuminate enemy camp during bombardment by APHIS. All aircraft returned safely. Day 21/11. 1 Sunderland made recco. of passage from Suda Bay to Alexandria.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1151/22).

/ APHIS .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

APHIS successfully bombarded Maktila Camp for one hour during night of 20/11. Ineffective shore fire was encountered. No damage or casualties to ship. Intend issuing following communique. During night of Nov. 20th a naval unit assisted by air co-operation successfully bombarded Maktila Camp on Libyan Coast for one hour. Three large fires were started. The enemy returned fire but caused no damage or casualties. (C.in C. Med. 1231/22).

East Indies.

Raider. My 1322/?13. A.C.N.B. 1145/20 and C.in C. China 1645/21 signify that raider is a warship or has appearance of one. Is there information to substantiate this? (C.in C. E.I., 0530 Z/22 to Admty). Your 0530Z/22. No evidence here to show that raider is or resembles a warship. Cases have occurred before of ships signalling RRRR in error for QQQQ. (D.D.I.C. 1143/22).

Mombasa, Sea Transport Staff. My 1834/6 and 1212/16. The existing Sea Transport staff insufficient to prepare and implement the supply side of operations. Request 2 additional S.T.O's Grade 3 be appointed to arrive not later end March 1941. (C.in C. E.I. 1256Z/22).

Kismayu, COLOMBO. My 0446/12 and my 1120/17. COLOMBO sighted no shipping or Dhows at sea. 13 ships observed in Kismayu and confirmation is being obtained that this total did not include ASKARI, KIONGA. Confirmed newcomer resembled GUISEPPA MASSINI.
My 0324/17, description of coaster fits ACHILLE LAURO. Air reconnaissance about 20/11 indicated no change in number or disposition of ships at Kismayu since 4/11. (C.in C. E.I., 0556/22, to Admty.)

RHEINLAND, Shipment to Japanese R.V. S.O.(I) Karachi reports post intercepted on 21/11 from Miyimoto Bussan Kaisha to Victor Ajeevid, Aleppo stating "Cargo Ex German ship RHEINLAND shipped earlier from Batavia to Nagoya now reshipped to Basra for overland despatch, in Japanese MANTAI MARU expected to leave Nagoya 16/11." Cargo not known. (S.O.I., Bombay 0604Z/22 to Arfar).

/ STEAUA ROMANU. ...

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

STRAUA ROMANU. Your 1118/21 Repatriation of Roumanian crew of steamer STRAUA ROMANU. Yes, please. Request early despatch to Mombasa. Will crew take ship the whole way to U.K.? (C.in C. E.I., 06342/22 to S.S.T.O. India)

STAR OF ALEXANDRIA M.I.C.E. Telegram 9002 21/11. S.N.O. Red Sea inform C.C.S. Officer Aden, STAR OF ALEXANDRIA cleared for Port Said by C.C.S.O. 13/11 with full cargo of Egyptian sugar for Bushire via Bandar Shahpur. (C.in C. E.I. 06382/22, to Admty., etc.)

Convoys W.S.4. U.S.7. Admty. 2252/20 and 2211/15. Escort in southern half of Red Sea will not be available for more than one W.S.4 convoy at same time owing to B.N. and B.S. convoy commitments. Proposed that W.S.4A and W.S.4C proceed through Red Sea in company, and that W.S.4B either proceeds through Red Sea with A and C or pass Aden 5 days after A and C. Anticipated U.S.7 will proceed through Red Sea in sufficient time before W.S.4A and C, but this is dependent on availability for escort from Fremantle. (C.in C. E.I., 07327/22 to Admty.)

British Air Report. Operational Summary 165. Sudan. Night Nov. 20/21. Wellesleys bombed Gura, Asmara, and Massawa setting fire to a building at Gura. Damage elsewhere not observed. Day 21/11. One Wellesley made an anti-submarine patrol off Port Sudan. 2 S.79's bombed Port Sudan no damage or casualties resulting. Two Gladiators intercepted combat indecisive. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1152/22).

Para.4. Kenya.
20/11 and 21. S.A.A.F. made coastal patrol Mombasa and recces. Dicks Head and Takaaba. Bombs dropped on Buna by S.A.A.F. recco. aircraft. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E. 1153/22).

Economic Warfare. Telegram 9002 21/11. Evidence accumulating that blockade of Syria being evaded by greatly increased imports via and from Iraq. Stated in Syrian press that arrangements in hand to bring in large purchases sugar, tea, caustic soda, and that Iraqi Consul-General gone to Bagdad on economic mission. (M.I.C.E. 1228/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH .....

MOST SECRET.

23.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

My 1311/2. Following received from Ottawa. (Begins.) N.C.S.O. New York is concerned about fuel and endurance worked out for complete voyage particularly the last stage as no allowance appears to have been made for evasively routeing.
Suggest this might be checked.
(Ends.)
Owners state that on basis of speed of advance of 23 knots QUEEN ELIZABETH has 500 miles range beyond that required for voyage from Capetown to Singapore.
Request report whether this considered adequate.
If not propose vessel proceed to Trincomalee for fuelling.
(D.S.T. 1619/22 to C.in C. E.I.)
S.S.T.O. Bombay's 0555/15.
QUEEN ELIZABETH is expected to commence Transport Service (date). Desired to operate her in Convoy with QUEEN MARY.
Can arrangements be made to deal with both vessels simultaneously at Trincomalee or alternatively one at Trincomalee and one at Colombo?
After transhipment at above ports it is hoped that no further transhipment will be required for troops destined Middle East. (D.S.T. 1853/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

QUEEN MARY.

Reply to P.S.T.O. India 0555/15/11.
Disadvantages to be overcome at Trincomalee (C.in C. 1254Z/22 to D.S.T.)

Transport Capacity.

Your 0522/1. Arrangements will be made for your to be informed as requested.
In exceptional cases where vessels cannot proceed from Cape to Suez without replenishment personnel will be transhipped in South Africa to other suitable vessels.
It was intended in order to avoid call at Aden that personnel for Aden should proceed to Suez in first place and return thence in a B.S. Convoy. Capacity of ORONSA and KEDIVE ISMAIL.
(D. of S.T. 2203/22 to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

C.in C. Far East. — Admty. 2322/19/10. Additional amendment to directive to C.in C. Far East, approved by Chiefs of Staff. (1 S.L., to C.in C. China, 0049/22).

TEDDY. — Norwegian tanker, due Singapore 17/11, not arrived. Left Aberdeen 25/10 Route. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0145/22).

Indo-China. — Situation. Report for de Gaulle from de Schompre No. 19, 21/11. States no Japanese ships near Saigon. Adm. Decoux has decided to resist any Thailand agression but would accede all Japanese demands. (C.in C. China 03312/22).

Potential Raider, ELANDS FONTEIN — Dutch source reports motor vessel ELANDS FONTEIN rumoured to be completed for service as raider. (C.O.S.Singapore 03132/22).

America and West Indies.

German Ships, Local Craft used for recon. — Enemy merchant ships lying in neutral ports may possibly employ agents launches or other local craft to reconnoitre to seaward before they break out. This was done by HELGOLAND on day of departure Puerto Colombia. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/22 to DIOMEDE, CARADOC, PRINCE ROBERT, VAN KINSBERGEN.)

Crew Trouble. — My 1228/20. As crew refused to sail without high angle gun the 12 pdr. H.A. from s.s. TREDINNICK was supplied. Crew still refuse to sail unless repairs to refrigeration are made. NORTRASHIP New York regard written statement when crew signed that men would not be forced to proceed U.K. unless ship complete in all details, crew only left New York on this understanding. See my 1536/19 to Admiralty and C.O.A.C. Halifax only which is relevant. Essential whole Brine system should be repaired (dates). Movement of troops for passage has been cancelled. (N.S.H.Q. Ottaw. 1921/22.)

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Troop Movements. A.C.N.B. 0713Z/18. N.Z.N.B. reports that approx. New Zealand requirements 6500 ready end of March, then 4100 every 3 months. (A.C.N.B. 0335Z/22 to D. of S.T.)

CANBERRA, PERTH, Raider. CANBERRA proceeded at 1430Z/20 to locate raider attacking NAIMOA. PERTH proceeded at 0037Z/22 in support.
Sailing of U.S.7 is delayed until return of CANBERRA and PERTH. (A.C.N.B. 0420Z/22)
PERTH left Fremantle 0037Z/22 to assist in search for raider. Proceeding initially along latitude, 20° S. (A.C.N.B., 0810Z/22)

GRUNGAL. U.S.N. Company. Grounded off Barton Heads, Victoria, 1215Z/21. Abandoned. No lives lost. (A.C.N.B., 1521Z/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.11.1940. Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KLANDSFONTEIN — Dutch sources reports motor vessel KLANDSFONTEIN rumoured to be completed for service as raider. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0913Z/22). (New vessel under construction at Danzig).

RHEINLAND — Shipment in Japanese MANTAI MARU (See East Indies).

CORDELIA — Arrived from Russia (Galatz, 1113/22)

LECH — Arrived from Vigo 1100/22. (Bilbao, 1845/22). Admty. 1134/21. If LECH is proceeding to Bordeaux she may arrive p.m./23. (V.A.S. to S/M's on patrol).

SPEZIA. — Arrived 21/11 from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1237/22).

? — Post pilot has informed Portugese friend German Steamship KS due to sail dawn 23/11.
Shipping Company's clerk says Captain has requested his account. (Both B.2).
Keeping in touch. There are rumours German submarine may be waiting to escort her. (Vice Consul, Horta, 2222/22)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RAPALLO. — Navy Dept. report from Cartagena, RAPALLO reported to be raising steam p.m./19. (N.A. Washington, 1249/27).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

YALOU — My 0210/20. Understand that delay to YALOU due to insurance agents refusing to cover their consignment of rice unless vessel carry Navycert. French naval officer's enquiry at Consulate General on 20/11 concerning Navycerts tends to confirm this. Same source states that application for Navycert has been prohibited by Vichy.
(N.C.S.O. Saigon, 02252/22, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HAVBOR — HAVBOR From Cape Town 1/11 due Freetown 17/11 has not arrived. This may have been Norwegian tanker sunk by submarine at 1715/15 in position 004° 24' N. 013° 46' W. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1552/22).

CREE (torpedoed 21/11) — Your 2341/21. Have searched area since 0230. No sign of CREE or boats. Intend Intend proceeding to join S.C.11 at 0600. (ST. LAURENT, 0459/22 to C.in C. W.A.) Your 0459. Remain in vicinity until after daylight. (C.in C. W.A. to ST. LAURENT, 0609/22) Sunderland a/c being despatched to assist search, should reach area about noon. Remain searching as long as fuel permits. (C.in C. W.A. 0950/22 to ST. LAURENT)

BRADFYNE — Master of Norwegian S.S. LISBETH in Convoy S.C.11 reports British S.S. BRADFYNE ship in convoy was torpedoed 23 or /22. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1319/23).

VICTORIA (torpedoed 21/11) — Detach one Corvette to stand by VICTORIA torpedoed and abandoned in position 056° 08' N. 014° 20' W. at 1015/21. BRITISH HONDURAS sailed Campbeltown 1243/21 to take VICTORIA in tow. Corvette detailed is to report position course and speed of O.C. 46 when well clear of Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1151/22 to CALDWELL).

Submarines Reported.

0308. — 59.50 N., 10° W., position indefinite. (D.D.I.C. 0343/22).

0148. — 55.30 to 56.30 N., 16.30 to 19.30 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 444).

1938) 2131) — D.F. bearings indicate Convoys H.X.85 or H.X.86 may have been sighted by Italian U/B. (D.D.I.C. 2230/22 to HELIOTROPE, CASTLETON).

1642. — 54.30 N., 20° W., indefinite. (D.S.445).

1938) 2131) — 58° to 59° N., 16° to 18° W., indefinite (D.S. 445) Italian U/B.

0300. — Norwegian SITONA straggling from W.N.41 reports sighting submarine on surface in position 12 miles .N.W. from Cape Wrath at 0300/21st. November. This ship has no gun and has made no previous report. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1645/22).

/ Use of Rio de Oro ....

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Use of Rio de Oro. Consul Tangiers 1606/17. Request you will investigate report that Rio de Oro of Canary Is. are being used by Italian U-Boats. (D.D.I.C. 1612/22 to S.O.I., Gibraltar).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 was some 280 miles S.W. of Fastnet at 2031/21. This unit was in about 46 degrees N. 11 degrees W. on 14th November, so may be on patrol in Western Approaches.
2 in N.W. Approaches or farther W., whereabouts unknown.

German - 1 in Sierra Leone area.
1 may be in Western Approaches.
1 was about 135 miles W., of Slyne Head at 1412/21, and may be northward bound.
1 in area 55 degrees to 56 degrees N. 13 degrees to 15 degrees W.
1 was in 54 degrees 30' N. 18 degrees 50' W. at 2328/21.
1 in area 55 degrees 30' to 56 degrees 30' N. 16 degrees 30' to 19 degrees 30' W.
1 probably some 50 miles to southward of Rockall.
1 somewhere about 60 degrees N. 21 degrees W.
1 was in about 59 degrees 50' N. 10 degrees W. at 0308/22, and is probably outward bound.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1259/22.)

Rocket Signals of U/B Attacks

Masters of ships in Convoy are still not sufficiently impressed with vital necessity of firing a rocket when their own ship or another ship close to them is attacked by U-Boat. If this is not done the escort, in conditions of high wind and dark nights, is frequently unaware that an attack has taken place until it is too late to enable successful, or indeed any, counter action to be taken.
All possible emphasis must be given to this point by N.C.S.O's at Convoy conferences. Masters should be told that there is little hope of reducing the U-Boat menace by the destructions of U-Boats unless they play this essential part in counter attack. (D.T.D. 1645/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1535.

By a/c, 55.20 N., 8.01 W., at 1535.
(A/C via Plymouth W/T, 1608/22).

After fuelling proceed with all despatch to position 055° 28' North 008° 01' West. U-boat reported by aircraft at 1539. Report situation to A.C. Western Approaches at daylight. (N.I.C. Londonderry 1715/22).

N.O.I.C. Londonderry's 1715/22. If no further information regarding U-boat attacked by a/c proceed now to join H.X.86 (C.in C. W.A., 2222/22, to SABRE and SARDONYX).

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Two Destroyers for Canada. Your 1217/8. I have investigated this question and we can accept two TRIBAL destroyers for Canada to be ordered in May, 1941, and laid down in August, 1941, when your first two destroyers will have been launched.

If you can now confirm this order the necessary arrangements will be made.

(1st S.L. 1239/23 to C.N.S. Canada)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE At 0700/23 (D.C. 0704/23) At 1130/23 (D.C. 1147/23)
At 2340/23 (D.C. 2350/23)

Campbeltown A/A Defences Recent bombing of Campbeltown by a low flying aircraft shows necessity for A/A defences particularly in view of its isolated position and its important naval establishments. It is understood that A/A gun defences intended cannot be provided before end of March. Consider that machine gun posts should be provided forthwith.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2244/23 to C.in C.W.A.)

Movements.

M.L. 125 Left Harwich 0842 to join F.S. Convoy for Chatham. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0847/23 to Adty).

HONELING:VAAG Request may patrol between T.R. 37 and Coast, when available. (F.O.C.N.F. 1008/23 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

ST. LAURENT Indicate your position, course, and speed (C. in C. W.A. 1021/23)

Patrol Areas. Amend para. 2. of 71.ETOO.0949/16 in accordance with H.A.N.P's 1642/22 (C in C. H.F. 1134/23 to H.F.)

Dover. Patrols for Night 23/24 (V.A. Dover 1304/23)

French T.B's My 1923/16. 3 French T.B.'s should be ready to sail for W.A. during week beginning 24/11 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537/23 to Adty)

Ships out of Action. Ships of Nore Command out of action at Humber, Chatham, London, Tyne, Sunderland, and Hartlepool. (C. in C. Nore 1546/23 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (1)

Iceland.

Request information when LEONIAN may be expected to relieve DEVON CITY. Also when BARRHEAD and BARRINGTON may be expected. STALBERG can be spared and propose to sail her for Rosyth first opportunity. BARCLIFF must remain until relieved. All B.I. Indicator Net now weighed. (P.O.I.C. Iceland 0952/23 to D. of B.D.).

BERKELEY
WITCH

Patrol Westward tonight covering M/V group and return to Portsmouth (C.in C. Portsmouth 1247/23 to Adty)
Cancel my 1247/23 and 1107/23 and westbound movements in my 1257/23 (C.in C. Portsmouth 1743/23 to Adty).

KASHMIR
JAVELIN
JACKAL
JUPITER
JERSEY

5 Destroyers of 5th D.F. under D.5 will patrol 5 to 15 miles 160° from Prawle Point from about 2100 today. (C. in C. W.A. 1751/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth) Proceed when ready Return to Plymouth 0930. Object, to intercept and destroy 3 Enemy Destroyers in Channel tonight between 6°W and 1° 30'W probably proceeding from Brest to Cherbourg. (C. in C. W.A. 1833/23 to D.5 and 2317/23 to Adty). Proceed in execution. Despatch is necessary (C. in C. W.A. 2025/23 to Captain D.5) 5th D.F. left Plymouth 2050 for 49° 30'N 3° 25'W at 25 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 2209/23 to UPHOLDER).

My 1833 and 1933. Object now is destruction of Convoy probably proceeding to Cherbourg. 5th D.F. endeavour to intercept before passing 3°W. Propose DUNEDIN aim to intercept to East of 2 40'W. Unless contact made with Enemy it is undesirable for own Forces to meet. (C. in C. W.A. 3005/23 to D.5)

Operations (2)

Operation P.I.2.

Will be carried out between 2030 and 2130 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1809/23 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

DUNEDIN
BERKELEY
WITCH

All previous night movements to the West cancelled. DUNEDIN BERKELEY WITCH are carrying out a sweep to the West to the limit of Portsmouth Command arriving in position 50° 10' N. 3° 00'W. at 0030/24 then steering Southward for 20 miles then returning Portsmouth to be off Nab at 0745. This force will be available to cooperate with forces of Western Approaches if situation requires it. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/23 to C. in C. W.A)

C. in C. W.A. 2005. Convoy may arrive Cherbourg daylight. Proceed as far south as is safe on meridian 2° 40' W before returning to arrive Nab. 0745.

/Keep.....

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (2) (Continued).

Keep clear of area W.2 Northern and Western limits 50 degrees 05' North and 2 degrees 00' West.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2133/23 to DUNEDIN)

Milford Haven — Operations 24/11 cancelled owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Have 1823/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

Dover shelled — Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 18 rounds between 0930 and 1017 today. Shells fell near R.M. Siege Battery. No. casualties or damage reported (V.A. Dover 1856/23 to Adty)

Submarines.

Greenock Area. — Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1203/23)

L.26. — Exercising in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M. tomorrow (ACOS 1617/23)

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/24 (V.A.S. 1811/23)

UPHOLDER, SEAWOLF — (See operations) UPHOLDER keep more than 30 miles away from coast until 0130/24. SEAWOLF patrol between 001° and 002° W and South of 50° 5'N. (Capt. S.S. 1827/23 and 2201/23 to UPHOLDER) 5 Destroyers and 3 Destroyers operating. Keep well clear. Enemy Destroyer may be met between longitude Lizard Head and Needles. (Capt. S. 5. 1931/23 to UPHOLDER, SEAWOLF)

British Air Activity.

Willemscoord, Gravelines, Helder, Vlieland — Attacked by A/C on 22/11 (H.Q.B.C. 0137/23)

Portsmouth — Re-siting Portsmouth impossible without impairing effectiveness of Barrage. Suggest Adty. release Balloons from other naval Barrages. (H.Q. Balloon Command 1100/23 to Air Ministry) My 1399/20 Balloon Command are investigating possibility and re-siting. (ACNBH 1910/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth.

Siple Balloon Patrol — Adty. 1739/18 and 1636/21. If you have no objection, C. in C. W.A's suggestion should be tried on 3 nights when weather permits. (Air Ministry 1201/23 to Fighter Command)

/Lorient.....

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (Continued)

Lorient. — A/C of 59 Squadron to attack Naval Dockyard tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1310/23 to 16 Group, Thorney Island)

Boulogne — A/C to destroy E-Boats and Shipping tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1314/23 to 16 Group, North Coates)

Ship firing on own A/C — Se T.L.D.F. reports at 1047/23 that at 0753/23 ARISTOCRAT opened fire with whole armament at an A/C which eventually fired correct Recognition Lights. Requests A/C be asked either not to fly low over Patrol Vessels or to fire Recognition Lights on approaching them. (C. in C. Nore 1600/23 to Adty).

Patrols. — Assessments (C. in C. Rosyth 1812/23 to Adty) A/C Patrol is now amended, and will be continuous on line Lizard Head to 49° 25'N 3°W (C. in C. W.A. 2133/23).

Enemy Air Activity.

Eastleigh. — At 0045/23, 7 Bombs dropped on West side of Aerodrome. Electric Light out. No further damage or casualties. (Eastleigh 1020/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth) Estimated Repairs £10 (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1130/23 to C.E. in C.)

Convoy — One A/C shadowing in 51° 45'N. 1° 25'E. Course 226°, speed 8 knots. (VERDUN 1025/23)

BOOK

Forces — My 2232/22. One or two enemy seaplanes flew over entrance Skaale Fiord Thorshavn and Nolio Fiord between 1725 and 1735/22. 2 Torpedoes were fired at shipping in Thorshavn Bay and both exploded on the beach. Minor damage ashore and no casualties. Failing light hampered observation and no evidence of mines having been dropped, though this possibly exists if two seaplanes were present. Torpedo fragments will be forwarded to A.C.O.S. (H.O.I.C. Forces 1130/23 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1130/23. Can you state if enemy aircraft were monoplanes or biplanes, floatplanes or flying boats twin or four engined and any other details which might assist identification. (A.C.O.S. 1615/23 to H.O.I.C. Forces).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Continued)

Your 1615/23. Aircraft were monoplanes probably 2 possibly 3 engine. Failing light made identification difficult but possibly Dornier seaplanes as stated in my 1750/22 (N.O.I.C. Forces 2331/23 to A.C.O.S.

CASTLE. In tow. Will be in about 54° 15'N 0°9'W at 0200, proceeding North. (C. in C. Rosyth 2010/23 to [illegible]).

Eastney At 2024, incendiary Bombs dropped in R.M. Barracks. No apparent damage or casualties. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2344/23 to Admiralty.)

FISHPOOL (bombed 14/11) At 1331 in tow at 55° 24'N. 7° 10'W. Course E speed 4 knots, A/C report. (C. in C. W.A. 1625/23 to CARONIA.

Mining (i)

Humber. Open (F.O. Humber, 0447/23)
Closed, A/C minelaying suspected (F.O. Humber 1935/23).

Tyne. N.C.S.O. Tyne 1245/21, Admiralty 1535/22 C. in C. Rosyth 1892/22. Signal made to N.O.I.C's Tyne area instructing all Diesel driven vessels to be towed in and out of harbour in cases where it is believed Acoustic mines have been laid down. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1100/23 to C. in C. Rosyth)
Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1314/23)
Instruct diesel drived ships not to proceed under own power nearer to Tyne that T.1. Buoy and Sunderland that S.2. Buoy from which positions they should ask for Tug (C in C. Rosyth 1455/23 to HOBART)
Closed, suspected minelaying. Expected opening noon 24/11 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1910/23)
Closed suspected minelaying. Ships in FN 40 for Tyne should be diverted Sunderland (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/23 to VANITY, SANDHOUND).

Operation S.N.11 PORT NAPIER not taking part, foul propeller. Sufficient mines available in rest of squadron (R.A.M.L. 1136/23 to Admiralty) C. in C. H.F. 1653/22. Intend pass Hoxa 1730/23/11 to make contact R.A.M.L. during daylight 24/11. Destroyers may require to refuel from Oiler OLIGACH about 26/11. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1141/23 to C. in C. H.F.).

/Operation.

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (2)

Operation S.N.11 (Continued)

My 1056/22 ST. MARYS delayed at least 8 hours. Proceeding with the other two. Can C. in C. provide a third destroyer (R.A.M.L. 1303/23 to Admiralty) My 1303/23 R/V 030° Butt of Lewis 5 miles course 30° at 2045 (R.A.M.L. 1322/23 to R.A.(D)) R.A.M.L. 1303/23. Request you will sail KEPPEL to join R.A.M.L. (C. in C. H.F. 1345/23 to R.A. (D)) Departure Port ZA 1400/23 R.A. minelayers in H.M. Ships SOUTHERN PRINCE, MONARCH, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BATH, ST. ALBANS to carry out S.N. 11 (TORLANDER 1402/23 to Admiralty) Proceed when ready to R/V with R.A.M.L. H.F. in SOUTHERN PRINCE at 2045/23, 030° Butt of Lewis 5 miles course 303? Provide escort (R.A.D. H.F. 1420/23 to KEPPEL)
Expect escort by Sunderland A/C from about daylight 24/11 (C. in C. Rosyth 2254/23 to R.A.M.L.).

Humber.

At 2024/22 heavy explosion over Humber entrance height 1000 ft. Similar at 2214/22. No firing taking place. No friendly A/C in vicinity. No balloon destroyed. Explosions similar to mines detonating (F.O. Humber 1212/23 to Admiralty)

Stadlandet.

Your 1927/22. I do not think any mines off Stadlandet Destroyers have been over banks, fishing vessels sighted fishing and enemy M/V's use waters. (C. in C. H.F. 1216/23 to V.A.S.).

Mining (3)

Milford Haven

Port is open, local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1227/23). 1 ground mine exploded on land W. of Hook Point. 1 red ground mine detonated 061° 1.5. miles St. Anns Head Light (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1825/23)

Plymouth.

When inside 26 fathom line on entering Plymouth by Q.S.S 188 speed not to exceed 9 knots. All diesel machinery should be stopped (C. in C. W.A. 1428/23 to SHERWOOD and LANCASTER) Since my 1848/12 one red mine detonated 1030/23 during pulse period single L. sweeper by S. Winter Buoy (C. in C. W.A. 1804/23 to Admiralty).

/Thomas Hatney.

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (3) Continued.

Thames Estuary. — Summary of explosions and A/C activity for night of 22/23 (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1502/23 to C. in C. Nore).

NEW COMET. — L.L. Trawler damaged by near explosion, not sweeping. Position 070 true. 3000 yards from P.W.S.S. at 1507. Beached inside river e entrance. Salavage operations in hand. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1734/23 to C. in C. Rosyth amended by 1812/23).

Mining (4)

Moray Firth. Approaches. — My 1535/22. Search has been made nothing to report, gales make searching and sweeping difficult. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1920/23 to Admiralty.

Falmouth. — Port is closed, suspected mines (F.O.I.C. FALMOUTH 2104/23 C. in C. W.A.

Faroes. — My 1750. Enemy A/C took hostile action which cannot be fully investigated before daylight. Possible mines dropped in Nolso Fjord. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 2232/23 to A.C.O.S.)

K.3. — Mine Observation Patrol craft K.3. Kelvin Diesel 66 H.P. blown up by mine, presumed acoustic, 046° Inckkeith light 12.3. cables at 1701/23. (C in C. Rosyth 2311/23)

ICARUS — My 2135/19. Following are general intentions of minelaying operation (details) (D.D.O.D.(M) 2319/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

SAILOR KING. — H.M. Drifter. Mined at 1555/23 228° 3300 ft. from No. 1 Martello Tower on St. Osyth Point (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea. 2309/23).

/Willemscord

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Willemsoord) Gravelines) Lakkentsoog)	Shipping and Barges on 22/11 (H.Q.B.C. 0137/23).
Enemy Convoy.	At 1020/22 half a mile West of Vlieland a Convoy of 8 fairly large M/V's unescorted, heading 250° at 7 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 0137/23)
Unknown Ship	S.S. ST. PATRICK when 21 miles E.S.E. of Tuscar at 0800/22 saw large ship about 18000 tons painted grey travelling at high speed to Southward. Ship then Ship then turned in ST. PATRICK'S wake and steamed Northwards. No. guns were seen in ship. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0957/23 to Adty).
Enemy Unit.	At 1130.B.S.T. in 57° 45'N. 6° 20'E D/F unreliable fix. (DDIC 1212/23)
Enemy Ships.	A/C reported 8 to 12 ships at 1555/23 in 48° 40'N. 4° 40'W., course 045°, speed unknown. (C in C. W.A. 1933/23 to Capt. D.5.).
5 Enemy Destroyers.	Operating in Channel, probably returning Cherbourg daylight 24th. (V.A.S. 2111/23 to S/M's Area B.) See Operations.

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

WESTCOTT	Port Engine cannot be moved owing to 3-inch wire round propellor. Am proceeding to Belfast. Position 55° 40' N., 13° 58 W., (WESTCOTT 0001/23 to C. in C., W.A.) Proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A. 0722/23 to WESTCOTT)
Rockets Seen	At 0607 White Rockets seen in 54° 48' N., 13° 20' W., Am searching area until daylight. (SAGUENAY 0624/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
E.N. 30	If ALYNBANK is in company leave E.N. 30 after Kinnaird Head and return Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F., 0933/23 to CURACOA) Orders to ALYNBANK (R.A.D. H.F., 1710/23)
H.X. 85 } H.X. 86 }	My 2230/22. Indications that H.X. Convoys are now being shadowed by German U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 1030/23) Delay in notifying C. in C., W.A., 1353/23)
H.X. 86	Proceeding Londonderry to fuel, VISCOUNT in company. CASTLETON must leave convoy a.m./24 owing shortage boiler feed water. (WHITEHALL 1200/23)
S.C. 11	Rejoin convoy with utmost despatch. (ENCHANTRESS to ST LAURENT, 0755/23) Attacked by U-Boat (See U-Boat Campaign)
F.N. 41	Postponed 24 hours (C. in C., Rosyth 1225/23, 1635/23 C. in C., Nore 1152/23)
F.N. 42 (fast)	WOLSEY, VERDUN sails 0800 (C. in C., Rosyth 1635/23) (C. in C., Nore, 1152/23 2200/23)
F.N. 41 (slow)	EGRET WATCHMAN, code word Pilot. (C. in C., Rosyth 1635/23) (C. in C., Nore 2200/23)
F.S. 42	27 ships with high proportion of valuable vessels. Suggest A/A escort in Thames. (LONDONDERRY 1650/23 to C. in C., Nore) Requesting fighters (C. in C., Nore 2200/23)
SUDERHOLM BENTE MAERSK }	My 1319/22, re escort of A/S trawlers. Sailings postponed until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 1739/23 to N.C.S.O. Swansea)
O.B. 246	If still with convoy order them to disperse at daylight (C. in C., W.A., 1811/23 to W WALKER)
H.X. 87	To alter course. Route. (C. in C., W.A. to ALAUNIA, 2257/23)
H.X. 88	To alter course. Route (C. in C., W.A. to AUSONIA, 2313/23)
H.X. 91	REVENGE as close escort. (D.O.D. (H) 2311/23 to C. in C., A.W.I.)
E.N. 41	ARAB, ST ZENO, additional escort HASTINGS (N.C.S.O. Methil 1655/23)

/O.B. 248.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys, Contd

Shipping

O.B. 248 — Sailed 0630/23. Escort FOLKESTONE, WITHERINGTON, etc., (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1051/23)

S.L. 54 — Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 0913/23 to WALKER, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS etc.,)

Dispersal — Intend normally to order convoys to disperse at nightfall on day that local escorts part company. (C. in C., W.A., 1313/23 to Admty.)

S/M with H.X. Convoys — My 2341/22 for 26/11 read 28/11 (D O.D. (H) 1150/23)

Guns — Your 1121/20. Stocks of low angle guns immediately available for Allied ships both at home and abroad are expected to be absorbed into service during next two months. After stocks of guns in Canada are exhausted stiffening should be continued in North American ports only when this can be done without delay to ships movements. (D.T.D. 1804/23 to N.C.S.O. Ottawa)

ORDUNA
ADDA — My 0959/22. Delete HIGHLANDER. Request you sail HESPERUS to R.V. Liverpool Section. Position and route. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool to F.O.I.C. Belfast 1007/23) Your 1600/22, replacement of HIGHLANDER by HESPERUS, approved, (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., W.A., 0950/23)

F.O.C.N.P., 1600/21 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0950/22. CAIRO is to sail with CLYDE portion and remain with convoy till further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 1333/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

T.C. 8. — Your 1257/5. Intend PASTEUR and CAPETOWN CASTLE should form T.C. 8. (date) Ocean escort REVENGE. (D.O.D. (H) 2325/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Casablanca

Your reply to my 1915/5.
(4) Yes, Admiral D'Harcourt stated personally that any British men of war inside 20 miles limit would be attacked also any escorts to French merchantmen would defend their convoys. He said he is pro-British but would carry out his orders.
(5) Continuous movements of merchant ship causing very bad impression. French Officer stated that guns of French Navy will ensure ample food Morocco as we are afraid to take naval action.
(7) Many troops have been sent Dakar but not guns. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1522/23 to D.M.I.)

Note by N.I.D.
The above reply to a N.I.D. questionaire refers to Casablanca and (4) appears to be the origin of the report from N.C.S.O. Lisbon that French ships have orders to scuttle themselves and escorts to open fire if we interfere with their convoys. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon has been asked by Admty 1603/24 to conform)

French Ships Scuttling

All French ships have orders to scuttle themselves if in danger of falling into our hands. All escorts have orders to fire if we interfere with their convoys. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1714/23 to Admty.)

DJENNE

My 0943/20. Sailed French ship DJENNE (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Military Situation

E/2069 cypher 22/11. Interview on 18/11 with General de Gaulle and Spears re military situation before departure from Lagos. (G.O.C. West Afrien, 2205/22 to War Office) (Read from War Office 1710/23.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SIQUEIRO CAMPOS — Conband Gibraltar 1700/23 and your 025/22/11 total passengers on board 264. Request further instructions of disposal of passengers as they have no wish to return Lisbon. (Gibraltar 1740/23 to Admty.)

Photographs — Malta 0831/22 (re photographs of Taranto) Bag containing Admty. photographs still at Gibraltar with others left behind owing to lack of space in Flying Boat Clyde. Copies to Air Ministry forwarded in Clyde. (F.O.C.N.A. 1820/23 to Admty.)

Gibraltar — Arrived 1200/23 SALVIA, PEONY, GLOXINIA, HYACINTH, 1916/23 JAGUAR, KELVIN (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1932/23 to Admty.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Your 1850/20. Request report date ROYAL SOVEREIGN expected ready to sail for Halifax. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 2313/23)

Gibraltar A/C Reconnaissance — Situation report. 1 Martin recco. A/C flew over Rock at 1700 today, driven off by A/A fire (Govr. Gib., 1915/23)

South Atlantic

? S/M refuelling — Consul General Loanda reports 23/11 signalling between shore and sea at 2140 seen twice within past 5 days suggests possibility of enemy submarine or other craft refuelling and provisioning perhaps at mouth of R.Cuanza. Local authorities not informed. (C. in C., S.A. 1101N/23 to 1 C.S.)

SHROPSHIRE — Admty. 2211/15 para (V) Propose SHROPSHIRE should come under your administration forthwith (C. in C., S.A. 1313N/23 to C. in C., W.I)

Whalers — COCHRANE reports sighting 7 whalers without colours 009° (900') S., 006° 25' E course N.N.W. 0530/17. (DELHI 1359/23 to F.O.C. 1 C.S.)
DELHI's 1359/23 Probably whalers from Walvis Bay to Freetown on passage to U.K. (C. in C., S.A. 1743/23 to F.O.C.S.I.)

/Suspicious.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Suspicious Vessel

QQQQ Disguised Merchant Raider 25° 44' N., 24° 02' W., OLDENBURG sighted suspicious vessel. (Freetown W/T 1754/23)

QQQQ Disguised Surface raider, 25° 44' N., 24° 00' suspicious vessel 2000. (Lands End Radio, 1924/23)

Free French Shipping

In consultation with N.C.S.O. Duala and representative Spears Mission, General de Larminat High Commissioner French Africa 22/11 made following proposals for dealing with Free French shipping on West Coast of Africa (details) Information requested whether proposals meet with full approval of Ministry of Shipping and whether additional crews will be forthcoming (N.C.S.O. Duala, 1816/23 to Admty.)

DELHI NEPTUNE

To sail from Lagos at 0700/25 and R/V with NEPTUNE in 001° 20' N., 006° 30' E at 1000/26.
Full calibre throw off practice will be carried out on visual signalling.
(F.O.C.I.C.S. 2042A/23 to DELHI)

French Ports Shipping

My 1916/19/9. British and Allied and British and Allied Chartered shipping may now call at all ports in French Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa including Gabon . S.O's (I) to inform N.C.S.O's.
(C. in C., S.A. 1656/23)

Mediterranean

Greece

Situation (N.A.Athens to D.N.I., 1330/23)

TETRARCH

Orders for patrol (Capt S. 1. 1433/23)

REGULUS

Operation B.S. Orders (Capt S. 1. 1517/23)

Oil Fire Defence

Details of experiments, and requesting remarks. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 1733/23)

/A/S Vessels....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

A/S Vessels

Your 1140/22. Decision of Gen. Smuts much appreciated and early release of SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN FLOE, SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEA to C. in C., Med. would be welcome addition to his forces. Requested sail for Alexandria soon as possible. (Ad of M. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1801/23)

BERWICK

Your 2157/22 much appreciated. BERWICK will be passed through under cover of "Collar" (C. in C., Med., to Admty., 0931/23)

Corvettes

Your 2200/22. Concur. If corvettes unable to make R.V. at 0800/D 6 they are to proceed to Malta and await orders there. (C. in C., Med., 1034/23 to S.O.Force H.)

Greece. A/S Officers

My 1806/17. Cancel last sentance. Owing acute shortage of A/S Officers and other urgent requirements, no proposed that Greek Govt. be invited to send a suitable officer to England to undergo specialist A/S course in NIMROD (date) (D. A/S W., 1832/23, to C.in C., Med.)

Italian R.D.F.

From experience of TETRARCH in Gulf Sidra possible some Italian M.A.S. or destroyers fitted with low angle R.D.F. sets, and probably Italian U-Boats will also be so fitted. Submarines should not expect immunity on dark nights but are to dive for as much of the night as possible in patrol area. (Capt S. 1. to 1st S.M.F., 2017/23)

Operation M.B. 9.

Following positions established (a) to (h) Orders to Force D, Force F, and Corvettes (V.A.Malta, 2345/23)

Turkey

Chiefs of Staff No 28 to Cs. in C., Med., and M.E., requesting views on assistance to Turkey. (1st S.L. 2351/23) (See Med.Vol)

/Destroyer.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Destroyer Organisation

My 1644/21. GREYHOUND, GALLANT and GRIFFIN have been incorporated in the 14th Destroyer Flotilla as the 55th Sub-Division. Propose KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY and KINGSTON form 56th Sub-Division. (C. in C., Med., 1442/23 to Admty.)

CALEDON

Left Suez 0737/23 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2007/23)

Greece

Situation Report to 2400/22 (M.A.Athens, 1615/23 to W.O.) Your 1219/17. Military situation as follows. (M.A.Athens, 1330/23 to D.M.I.)

Requisitioned French Ships, Egypt.

To ensure safety and immunity from Legal Procedure of French ships which have been requisitioned and are now under British Flag registered in name of Ministry of Shipping, it has been decided that when it is intended that calls are to be made at Egyptian Ports Embassy should be advised by Sir Henry Barker in order that local Consuls may be warned. Instructions. (D. of S.T. 1712/23 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Air Activity

Combined services report up to 1700/22 All times G.M.T. 0802 to 0843 12 CR.425 in 2 formations of 6 approached from North and flew over Grand Harbour at 21000 feet turned East in shallow dive to 18000 feet and flew out North over Island only 3 minutes during which time A.A. engaged heavily and accurately. 1 CR 42 shot down in sea 8 miles S.E. of Malta by A.A. fire confirmed. 6 Hurricanes and two Gladiators detailed to intercept. Presumably recco only as no bombers followed. 0929 to 1404 Glenn Martin 431 flight photo recco Tripoli for enemy Naval and Air Force Units. Harbour, no warships 6 M/V's. 6000 tons 4 M/V's 3000 tons and 3 submarines. CV21 to 1344 Glen Martin recco Corfu Levkas Cephalonia Zante Strovathi for enemy Naval Units, nil reports visibility poor, no naval or military item. (H.Q. Malta, 1720/23)

/French Troop...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

French Troop Convoy

French troop convoy consisting of (FOBA ?) and CHAMPOLLION left Beirut 23/11 for Marseilles under guarantee no political prisoners cargo or militray equipment will be carried.
Possible that prisoners have been embarked two of whom are believed to be named S. Dautroy and Pitarn. Ships may be boarded and prisoners if found removed. Ships should only be sent in if found to be carrying cargo or military equipment in any quantity. (C. in C., Med., 2153/23)

East Indies

Aircraft for A.M.C'S

Request consideration be given to early fitting A.M.C's on East Indies Station with aircraft the need of which is stressed by prevalence of raiders on station. (C. in C., E.I. 04322/23 to Admty.)

ASKARI KIONGL

My 0556/22 re ships seen by COLOMBO. Confirmed that ASKARI and KIONGL were not in 13 ships observed. Total therefore 15. (C. in C., E.I., 04362/23 to Admty.)

CAPETOWN

Expect arrive Nancowry 1100Z/23 to leave a.m/24 and proceed to position 004° N., 086° E and then patrol between that position and 004° N., 091° E. (C. in C., E.I., 07402/23 to CAPETOWN)

Port Sudan

Two Italian aircraft raided Port Sudan 1145/21 G.M.T. probable objective Harbour but heavy and accurate A/A fire chiefly from CARLISLE made them drop their bombs elsewhere. (C. in C., E.I. 0744/23 to Admty)

COLOMBO

To leave Mombasa p.m.15/11 and patrol off Kismayu. To leave patrol to arrive Mombasa p.m. 29/11. Speed. (C. in C., E.I., 0755/23 to COLOMBO)

Aden Convoy B.N. 9½

SHOREHAM arrived 0300Z WOOLWICH arrived 0340Z, KIMBERLEY, WOOLWICH departure with B.N. 9½ at 1040Z (N.O.I.C. Aden 1057Z/23 to Admty.)

Madagascar.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Madagascar — British Vice Consul Majunga arrived Pretoria with Mayer, born in Mauritius of British parents but naturalised Frenchman for business purposes. Following is summary of information provided by Mayer (details) setting out the position with regard to the Free French movement (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1143/23 to C. in C., E.I.)

QUEEN MARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH — Your 1853/22. Facilities at Trincomalee. Requested that these vessels should be run alternately until the removal of rock at Trincomalee has been completed sufficiently for moorings to be put down. (C. in C., E.I., 1304Z/23 to D.S.T.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH — Your 1619/22. Routeing. Fuel capacity insufficient for voyage and ship should proceed (name) for refuelling (C. in C., E.I. 1300/23 to D. of S.T.)

W.S. 4.A
W.S. 4.C
W.C. 4.B — Your 0732/22 and Admiralty 2250/20. Not now intended to split W.S. 4.A and W.S. 4.C. Request adjust time of arrival of W.S. 4.B. at Aden to suit requirements. (D.O.D. (F) 1312/23 to C. in C., E.I)

China

Dutch Navy Staff Talks — My 0851Z/20. Dutch C. in C., requests arrangements for representatives to arrive Singapore next week for staff discussions. Am arranging accordingly. (C. in C., China to Admty., 0201Z/23) Your 0851Z/20. Explanation of F.O. interview (1st S.L. to C. in C., China 1340/23)

Station Boundaries — Admty. 2048/14. At 0001Z/26, boundary between China and East Indies Stations will be altered to following: Boundary between India and Burma, 20° N., 92° E., due south to 13° S., then due East as at present. (C. in C., China, 0323Z/23 to Admty.)

/Dutch Forces...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd

Dutch Forces

Your 0801/20/8. It is now hoped that Netherlands Government may accede to our request for facilities and may even authorise their air forces to co-operate. A decision has not yet been made but to expedite arrangements in case decision is favourable you should instruct Major Westall to open discussions with Dutch C. in C., (Hd. of M. 1715/23 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

U.S.Navy Information

113. N.A.Washington 1719/19. Navy Department to be kept informed of movements of H.M.Ships. Proposal should also enable me to economize forces required for watching enemy shipping in American ports if reciprocal information is given. It is presumed that N.A.Washington is satisfied as regards security of information to be given Navy department. Propose to comply. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1151/23 to Admty.)

REVENGE
T.C. 8.

To be sailed 25/11 as close escort for H.X. 91 as far as 30° W if her endurance will allow and then return to Halifax. She will be required to sail to U.K. as escort for T.C. 8 (date) (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., A.W.I., 2311/23) Your 1257/5. Intend PASTEUR and CAPETOWN CASTLE should form T.C. 8.(date) (D.O.D. (H) to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2325/23)

Japanese Shipping

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1503/21. Callao Agency reports NARUTO MARU also withdrawn and SAGUMI MARU, ARUMA MARU to operate in addition to HIE MARU. (S.O.I. Kingston 0956/23)

French Shipping

My 1831/10. Until further orders, French ships trading between U.S.A. and French West Indies are not to be sent in but are to be allowed to proceed. French Transatlantic shipping is still to be sent in. (C. in C., W.A. 1251/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS SCHOKE

Reported will sail from Horta a.m/23 (B.2) (Admty. 0830/23 to C. in C., H.F. and W.AA) Left Fayel 1930/23, approx. 200 tons coal on board (Vice Consul, Horta 1930/23, F.O.C.N.A. 2217/23 D.D.I.C. 2346/23) Description (F.O.C.N.A. 2345/23)

FRIESLAND
MONTSERRAT
LEIPZIG
MUNCHEN
HERMONTHIS

My 1149/17. Request for oil rejected. (S.O.I., Callao, 0939/23)

GERMANIA

My 1758/18. Please confirm definitely cargo in GERMANIA is petrol only and not fuel or diesel oil. This is important, in view of possibility of her refuelling raider. Please give source and grading of your information. (D.N.I. 1155/23 to Consul, Ponta Degada)
Your 1155. Confirm (A.I) entire cargo is petrol. Authority, Capt of Port. (N.C.S.O Ponta Delgada 1252/23)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RAPALLO

N.A. Washington 1249/22. Cartagena report, satisfied steam required only for repair Bunkers very low. (S.O.I., Kingston 1633/23)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLES PLUMIER

(Intercepted p.m/22) Arrived Gibraltar 23/11 (F.O.C.N.A. 1320/23)

ESPIQUETTE

Your 1728 November 22nd group 19 undecypherable (note. Group 19 was signal letters for F.S. ESPIQUETTE)
If this refers to French ship ESPIQUETTE she is now at Setubal loading sugar Morocco and will endeavour to run blockade.
(N.C.S.O., Lisbon 1500/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

23.11.1940
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

S.C. 11.
BIRI
BRUSE
?SALONICA

Attacked 0355/23 55° 04' N., 12° 15' W., No contact, star shells used but no sighting. Port side, no signals except rocket. BIRI, 14, BRUSE, 44 possibly one other unknown. BIRI sunk. Fore part of BRUSE floating with survivors. SKEENA standing by. (ENCHANTRESS 0726/23)

SALONICA

Your 1139/23 (Sent by W.R. Requesting verifiation of 0726/23 from ENCHANTRESS) Name received corrupt believed to be SALONICA. ~~1305/23.~~ C. in C. W.A.

? SALONICA

My 0726 OTTAWA reports another ship torpedoed at 0715. (ENCHANTRESS 0730/23)

My 0624 no contact, no wreckage. Rejoining convoy. My position 055° N., 013° 45' W., Weather. (SAGUENAY 0930/23)

Your 1021/23. Approximate position 055° (08?) N., 012° 56' W., course 082°, 16 knots, fastest speed possible at present Meteorological report. (ST LAURENT, 1045/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

BRUSE
SALONICA

ENCHANTRESS 0726/23. Request Tug for fore part of BRUSE in position 55° 16' N., 12° 05' W., All cargo 1550 tons lumber still intact. Have following survivors, SALONICA, Master and eight, BRUSE Master and 5. Rejoining convoy at 18 knots. (SKEENA 1051/23 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

S.C. 11.

Position course and speed of Convoy at 1015, 055° 16' N., 010° 51' W., 072° 6 knots 24 ships in company, 10 missing, but several probably lost touch in gale. Unknown ship torpedoed at 0705. OTTAWA reports no trace of ship or submarine although area was searched with star shells. SKEENA searching up track of convoy. (ENCHANTRESS 1130/23)

VICTORIA
(Torpedoed 21/11)

Contact with VICTORIA not made. Have searched 45 miles to leeward of torpedoed position. (BLUEBELL 1245/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

Following received begins:- N.O.i/c Greenock from ENGLISHMAN. Have been compelled to put back under the lee of Irish Coast through stress of weather 1612/23 Ends. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1707/23 to BLUEBELL)

/BRUSE.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

BRUSE

If VICTORIA not sighted by dawn tomorrow Sunday proceed derelict BRUSE in position 055° 16' N., 012° 05' W., Tug being sent to her. (Admty, Plymouth 2021/23 to BLUEBELL)

Your 1612/23. When weather moderates proceed to assistance of BRUSE in position 55° 16' N., 12° 05' W., at 1251/23. SKEENA standing by. Cargo 1550 tons lumber. Tug SALVONIA has been sent from Belfast. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2042/23 to tug ENGLISHMAN)

BUSSUM

Ship torpedoed in position 055° 39' N., 008° 58' W., at 2005. Searched with star shells and depth charges dropped at intervals by escorts. Visibility 2 cables wind 260 force 7. (corrupt group) apparently was in convoy. An rejoining convoy. OTTAWA after searching proceeded to torpedo ship. ST LAURENT and SKEENA searching and not in contact. (ENCHANTRESS 2134/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 2134/23. Torpedoed ship is BUSSUM floating in position 55.37. 08.42. OTTAWA has 29 survivors and considers salvage possible. Suggest SAGUENAY should close this position at daybreak and report as to salvage. (ENCHANTRESS, 2355/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

BLAIRESK
(False Report)

56.42 N., 19.14 W., BLAIRESK torpedoed. (Lands End Radio, 0739/23)
(Incorrect report, see 1300/23)

Proceeded to assistance of BLAIRESK torpedoed in position 056° 42' N., 019° 14' W., at 0809/23. (C. in C., W.A. 0921/23 to SANDWICH)

Sailed tugs TENACITY and THAMES to assistance of BLAIRESK (position) (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0925/23)

ANTEN

Swedish 5135 tons SS ANTEN torpedoed, still floating. (Wick Radio 1230/23)

After investigating BLAIRESK proceed ANTEN torpedoed and reported floating at 1200/23, 056° 57' N., 016° 17' W., You will not now be required to go to Sydney C.B. (C. in C., W.A. 1255/23 to SANDWICH)

/BLAIRESK.....

MOST SECRET

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

BLAIRESK not torpedoed, am searching until dusk for survivors of unknown ship reported torpedoed by BLAIRESK then in view of oil fuel situation intend proceeding direct to (? Sydney C.B.) 54.42 N., 19.14 W (Weather) (SANDWICH 1300Z/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

AINTEH torpedoed about 1200 today had apparently straggled some 100 miles astern of O.B. 244. Request confirmation that ship was properly ballasted, bunkers of good quality and ship capable of her guaranteed speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1311/23 to Admty.)

TYMERIC

The following has been read. 56.57 N., 16.17 W., At 0200 survivors aboard AINTEH also torpedoed in same position. (TYMERIC 1315/23)
TYMERIC was straggler from O.B. 244 torpedoed at 0200/23 (D.O.R. 24/11)

AINTEH torpedoed in position 56.57 N., 16.17 W., drifting east, require immediate assistance. (Port Patrick W/T 1321/23)

AINTEH torpedoed 0730 correction of position 56° 57' N., 18° 18' W., at 1500. Stormy weather, require immediate assistance, 1600 drifting due East. (Valentia Radio 1604/23)

KING IDWAL

British, 5115 tons. Have picked up Master and 27 Officers and men from KING IDWAL, am proceeding to position of AINTEH (Weather) (SANDWICH, 1730Z/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

SSSS Swedish ship AINTEH torpedoed position 56.57 N., 18.18 W., numbers 2 and 3 holds full of water, just floating, receiver now working, require immediate assistance, drifting due East. (Valentia Radio 1749/23)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0814	58.30 N., 4.30 E., very indefinite (D.S. 445)
0033	59° N., 16° to 18° W., very indefinite (D.S. 445)
0955	Italian U-Boat off Bordeaux, indefinite (D.S. 445)
0807	A/F message 56.42 N., 19.14 W., (D.D.I.C. 0845/23)
1030	My 2230/22. Indications that H.X. Convoys now being shadowed by German U/Boat, D.D.I.C. 1030/23)
1134	Indications that an Italian U-Boat is approaching Bordeaux. (V.A.S. to TIGRIS 1134/23) Orders to TIGRIS (Capt S. 2. 1412/23)
1120	Trawler reports submerged submarine in 58. 14 N., 6.01 W at 1120 (C. in C., Rosyth 1238/23) At 1120 a training aircraft reported that a Trawler had sighted a Submarine in position 058° 18' N., 006° 01' W., Could this have been Submarine H.28 and what was your position at that time? (A.C.O.S. 1312/23 to S/M H. 28) Cancel my 1238. False Report (C. in C., Rosyth 2002/23)
1225	A.F. message 56.57 N., 16.17 W at 1125 GMT (D.D.I.C. 1350/23)
1747-1754-2154	Possibly N. of 61° N., 2° to 5° E., very indefinite (D.S. 446)
2249	55.45, 13° W., Reported by Turkish KIYLE (Straggler from O.S. 46) B.2. (D.S. 446)
1931	57 to 59° N., W., of 15° W., very indefinite, Italian U/B (D.S. 446)
2029	52.30 N., to 54.30 N., 15° to 19° W., indefinite (D.S. 446)

Understood that reports from a U-Boat apparently shadowing H.X. 85 and 86 were intercepted at 0006, 0033, 0326 and 0442 today. This information was passed to me be telephone after 1000 today and passed to the escorts concerned at 1030/23.

/Even.....

MOST SECRET

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Even if such reports are not considered sufficiently accurate or reliable for immediate general promulgation it is requested all information of this kind may be passed to me as soon as it is available. (C. in C., W.A., 1353/13 to Admty.)

Three Italian submarines are expected to arrive at Stampalia at dawn on 25th 26th and 27th/11, respectively. T.O.O. 1445/23 (C. in C., Med., 1448/23 to Med. Fleet)

2240 Following has been read. SSSS de GPK from BINBROOK Submarine in vicinity 55.45N 13.00 W., (Port Patrick Radio 2149/23)

If in vicinity attack enemy submarine in position 055 deg. 45' North, 013 deg. 00'W at 2240 23. (C. in C., W.A. 2325/23.)

Use of Rio de Oro — Your 1612/22 re suspected Italian U-Boat base at Rio de Oro of Canary Is. Consul Teneriffe and Las Plamas will be asked. Submit Belgian JOHAN might be employed with effect. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1802/23 to Admty.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 off Bordeaux going in.
Possibly 1 in Western Approaches.
1 was about 120 miles N.W. of Rockall at 2131/22
1 more may be in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown.

German- 1 in Sierra Leone area.
Possibly 1 in Western Approaches.
1 was in 55° 04' N., 12° 15' W., at 0335/23 attacking S.C. 11.
1 was in about 54° 30'N 20° W at 1642/22
1 may be N. of 55° N and E of 10° W.
1 was in 56° 42' N., 19° 14' W., at 0807/23 attacking O.B. 244.
1 probably some 50 miles to Southward of Rockall.
1 approximately in 58° 30' N., 13° W., probably shadowing H.X. 85 or H.X. 86.
1 in area 58° to 60° N., and W of 20° W.
1 W. of Egersund Norway homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1245/23)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Anti-E.Boat Policy.

Enemy E.Boats are attacking merchant ships without warning. Sub. Paragraph (b) of D.M.S. Part I (BR 136 (1)) Article 53 is therefore to be regarded as in force so far as small enemy surface vessels are concerned.
2. This will necessitate the stationing of our M.T.B. or M.A/S.B. when employed on escort duties to convoys at night or in low visibility so that they are not mistaken for enemy vessels. All escorting patrol and minesweeping vessels must therefore be kept fully informed of the movements of merchant ships in their vicinity.
3. Merchant ships in convoy on the East Coast or in the English Channel are at liberty to fire at any small craft sighted under conditions of low visibility which are not recognised as friendly.
4. These instructions must be pointed out to the Commanding Officers of small craft and it must be impressed on them that the responsibility for not making contact with friendly convoys under these conditions rests on them.
(V.C.N.S. 1720/24. A.M. 558A).

Restriction of Attack on S/M's.

Surface ships are not to attack submarines unless hostile identity has been established in the area enclosed by the following line.
Benbane Head to Inishtrahul.
Line running 180 degrees from Inishtrahul to Irish Coast.
Restriction from 001/26 until further notice. (D.O.D. H. 1757/24 A.M. 975 AZ)

Scapa. Precautions against Air Attack.

Reference Admiralty telegram 1803/24.
The success gained at Taranto may encourage the Germans to try something of the same kind at Scapa. Request you will confirm that the berthing of the Fleet and general arrangements are such as to preclude a successful attack.
(1st S.L. 2206/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/24. (D.C. 1151/24)
At 2330/24 (D.C. 2331/24).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

HESPERUS. Sailed as by F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1007/23 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0615/24)

A/P Patrols. For 24/11. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0920/24)

REVILLE. My 1107/23 and 1743/23. Intend sail Group 1730/24. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1057/24) 1800/24 and my 1057/24. Ref. Southampton's 0856/24. REVILLE only sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1630/24 to Adty.)

ST. MAWES, VIMY, THELAWNEY } R.A.N.P's 1010/23. Movements. (C.in C. H.F. 1228/24 to R.A.N.P.

Dover. Dispositions for Night 24/25. (V.A. Dover 1301/24).

Orkneys. Estimated position at 2000/24. (A.C.O.S. 1528/24).

11th M/S Flotilla Your 1557/24. Should be ready to sail P.M./26. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1902/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

CAMPBELL, GARTH } Proceed to Harwich on completing Patrol tomorrow. (C.in C. Nore 2235/24).

Operations.

Air Patrol has been withdrawn on account of weather. It may be resumed later (C.in C. W.A. 0101/24 to D.5)
Air Patrol will be resumed at 0415 (C.in C. W.A. 0337/24 to D.5.

KASHMIR, KELVIN, JACKAL, JERSEY, JUPITER } D.5 in KASHMIR sailed in company at 2040/23 to destroy 3 Destroyers reported in Adty. 1639/23. Speed was limited by defects in JACKAL. At 2115 received information about convoy. Movements thereafter till 0522/24. A/C had to return at 2127/23 on account of weather. Nothing sighted. (C.in C. W.A. 1710/24 to Adty.)
3 Enemy Destroyers may be operating tonight 24/25 off South Coast between 6° W. and 1° 30' W. Proceed with JAVELIN, JERSEY, JUPITER, KASHMIR to patrol Lizard to Scillies about 15 miles from shore. Return Plymouth 0930/25. Air R/C not available. (C.in C. W.A. 1925/24 and 2025/24 to D.5). (D.D.I.C. 2107/24 to S/M's Area B).

/ My 1925/24. ...

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

My 1925/24. Amend to patrol between 5° W. and 4° W. to cover Shipping between Dartmouth and Falmouth and to intercept any Enemy Craft returning towards Brest. (C.in C. W.A. 2331/24 to D.6) (C.in C. Portsmouth 0034/25 to WITCH, VOLUNTEER).

My 1925/24. Cancel instructions to return to Plymouth 0030/25 and act in accordance with your 1957/24. (C.in C. W.A. 0010/25 to D.5).
Coast Guard report flashes of gunfire S.W. of Porth Levan at 0020. 2 Ships seen, one burning searchlights. (C.in C. W.A. 0031/25 to D.5).
Flashes still reported 210° Lizard about 4 miles at 0100 (C.in C. W.A.0122/25 to D.5).
Continual firing off Lizard between 0003 and 0130. No report yet from D.5. (C.in C. W.A. 0210/25 to C.in C. Portsmouth)
Gun flashes reported off Lizard. D.5 may order you to join him. Do not proceed West of 4° 30' W. without orders. (C.in C. W.A. 0213/25 to French Ship LEOPARD).
At midnight 2 or 3 Enemy Warships attacked Belgian Trawlers fishing 10 miles S.E. of Wolf. (C.in C. W.A. 0400/25 to D.5).

Iceland. Your 1006/23. Every endeavour will be made to make HONNINGSVAAG available as often as possible, but she has greater Escort commitments since loss of FRIDTJOF NANSEN. (F.O. Iceland 1132/24 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Dover shelled. Enemy coastal batteries fired six rounds between 1526 and 1613 today. Two rounds fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery and the remainder in the sea off St. Margarets Bay. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A. Dover 1808/24 to Adty.)

Straits of Dover. Intend sail M.T.B's 70, 69, and 5 at 2000/24 to operate between Calais and Boulogne, returning at 0130/25. (V.A. Dover 1830/24 to Adty.)

Armed Enemy Raiders. Policy and Measures to be adopted. (1st S.L. 1917/24 to C's-in-C.)
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations

The appearance of SCHEER in North Atlantic and the probable existence of five enemy armed merchant raiders which are operating in the South Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans necessitates a redistribution of forces to add to the security of our sea communications.

2. The policy to be aimed at is:-
(a) to establish hunting groups in focal areas where raiders normally operate against unescorted trade.
(b) to afford close escort to troop and trade convoys sufficiently strong to meet the threat of direct attack.

3. At present, largely due to the French collapse and the large reinforcements which are proceeding to the Middle East, our Naval forces are inadequate to carry out this policy.

4. A compromise has therefore to be accepted which will give reasonable security for troop convoys, a lesser degree to trade convoys supplemented by a covering force, and provision of hunting groups on the minimum scale in the more important focal areas.

5. These measures will have to be established by degrees and will, until more forces become available, consist of the following:-
(a) Hunting Groups.

(i)	North Atlantic	Home Fleet.
(ii)	Azores Area	Force H, when not engaged in operations.
(iii)	Freetown Area	BERWICK, NORFOLK, and FORMIDABLE (to be known as Force K) FORMIDABLE will exchange with ARK ROYAL when worked up.
(iv)	South East Coast South America	CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE
(v) (a)	Initially St. Helena-Cape.	HERMES with DELHI or DRAGON (Force L)
(b)	Later Indian Ocean	HERMES and ENTERPRISE (Force R.)

/(b).....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

(b) Escorts for Troop Convoys

(i) One "R" Class battleship on North Atlantic route.
(ii) One 8" cruiser and one 6" cruiser on United Kingdom to Freetown route.
(iii) DEVONSHIRE (later DORSETSHIRE) and HAWKINS on Freetown to Durban route.
(iv) SHROPSHIRE (later CORNWALL) and SOUTHAMPTON on Durban to Aden route.
(v) One cruiser on Australia-India route
(vi) C. Class cruisers and A.M.C. on India to Aden route.

(c) Escorts for Trade Convoys

(i) A.M.C.'s on North Atlantic route, covered by "R" Class battleship.
(ii) A.M.C's on Freetown to United Kingdom route.

(d) Independent Sailings

Fast merchant ships will continue to sail independently, escort being given as opportunity offers.

6. In order to economise shipping it is under consideration to pass a limited number of troop reinforcements through the Mediterranean.

(1st S.L. 1917/24 to Cs. in C.)

Note. These dispositions were terminated by Admty. 0229/30/12/1940.

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SUNFISH. My 1220/19. To sail 27/11 for Patrol between Stadlandet and Pro Havet to attack Coastal Shipping. (V.A.S. 0003/24 to S.C).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/25. (V.A.S. 1707/24).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Western Channel. (C.in C. W.A. 0337 and 0101/24 to Capt. D.5) Assessments (C.in C. Rosyth 1934/24 to Adty.)

Falmouth, balloon barrage. A.M. 1636/21 and 1739/18. Pending supply of V.L.A. Balloons, request approval to move one Balloon Barrage Vessel, or more up to maximum of four, into area suggested when weather permits. (C.in C. W.A. 1142/24 to Adty.)
Your 1201/23. (One Balloon Barrage Vessel to patrol Penmance Point to prevent A/C minelaying) No objection. Request you notify all Flying Units. (H.Q.F.C. 1615/24 to Air Ministry).
My 1142/24. F.O.I.C. Falmouth reports that if proposed dispositions had been in force last night, success would have been certain. (C.in C. W.A. 1626/24 to Adty.)
Request you concurrence with C.in C. W.A. 1142/24. (D. of L.D. 1835/24 to Air Ministry.)

Lorient. A/C of 59 Squadron to repeat attack on Lorient tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1240/24 to 16 Group Thorney Island).

Ghent. A/C of 53 Squadron to attack Oil Tanks near Ghent tonight.
(H.Q.C.C. 1242/24 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

Enemy Convoy. 2 Hudsons leaving Thornaby as soon as possible to attack Force reported by J/220 at 1300. (C.in C. Rosyth 1522/24 to C.in C. H.F.) (See Enemy Intelligence).

Portsmouth. Your 1359/20. No additional Balloons at present available. Suggest requirement be met by V.L.A's in due course. (Air Ministry 1615/24 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Lee. Cancel my 1949/23. Damage and casualties were caused by H.A. Shell. 10 W.R.N.S. killed and 11 injured. (Lee 1109/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

WOLSEY. My 1007. 2 Bombs. No hits. (WOLSEY 1029/24).

Sheerness. Small Bomb on R.N.A.A. Range at 1605/23. Minor damage to buildings. Repair estimate £12. (O.C.W. Sheerness 1130/24 to C.E.in C. Bath).

Faroes. One or more Seaplanes attacked Shipping in Thorshavn Bay at 1725/22. 2 Torpedoes exploded on coast causing slight damage to hospital and cable hut. Enemy unsuccessfully engaged with machine-guns, the only weapons available here. (O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands 2228/22 to War Office. Recd. Adty. 1055/24) (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1146/24 to A.C.O.S.)

VANITY. Adty. 1046/22. (Request for details of VANITY's 1135/21) Details of Enemy A/C. (VANITY 1141/24 to C.in C. Nore.)

Portsmouth. 4 small H.E. Bombs fell on Whale Island at 1951, and others in mud to the Westward. No damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1200/24 to Adty.)

5th M/S Flotilla. 1 A/C shadowing in 57° 26' N. 1° 40' W. (S.O. 5 M/S F. 1211/24) One section Blenheims joining you about 1545 in addition to Section for W.N.43. Air attacks appear probable. (C.in C. Rosyth 1450/24 to S.O. 5th M/S F.).

Portland. At 1302/24 one A/C dropped 2 Bombs in Harbour close to Mere Oil Fuel Tanks. No damage or casualties (F.O.I.C. Portland 1321/24 to Adty.)

Scapa Flow. German A/C made R/C near Scapa Flow at 1215 today and reported as follows. (D.D.I.C. 1423/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

Enemy R/C. Unusually comprehensive Enemy Air R/C Firth of Forth to Orkneys from 1330 onwards. (D.D.I.C. 1526/24 to C.in C.H.F.) Your 1526/24. Please give details. (C.in C. H.F. 1550/24 to Adty.)

/ 3 groups .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

3 groups of enemy aircraft 12 in all, operating from Stavanger, carried out a detailed reconnaissance in areas Forth - Kinnaird Head Orkneys and Pentland Firth.

Shipping and naval units in these areas were reported and weather reports were made from the Orkneys and Wick.
(D.D.I.C. 1803/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1423 not less than two Dornier 17 carrfed out Recco, having approached undetected, and remained in vicinity from 1130 until 1311.
Although several sightings were obtained visibility poor at the time. Aircraft were not engaged by Ground Defences.
No Bombs or Mines appear to have been dropped.
At 1707 Yellow Warning was made for 3 unidentified Aircraft. Only one other plot received from NAIAD at 1728.
2 Fighters from Castletown went up but did not make contact.
Green Warning made at 1757.
(A.C.O.S. 1925/24 to Adty.)

Woolston. Air Raid on night 23/24 caused following damage to Naval Store Depot.
(S.C.E. Portsmouth 1753/24 to C.E.in C.

Mining.

Portsmouth Suspect minelaying at 0055 approx. 050° 27' N., 002° 18' W. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0141/24 to DUNEDIN)

Milford Haven Port is closed (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0502/24) Port is open, subject to local restrictions (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1331/24).

Humber. Open. (F.O. Humber 0732/14)

CAMROUX IV. Has fired probably accoustic mine 1 mile 045° from charted position East Gaze. Ship anchored makes water. Engine out of action. Request tug at once.
(VERDUN, 0955/24 to C.in C. Nore).

RYAL. Mined in position 051° 32' N., 001° 04' E.
(WATCHMAN 1100/24 to C.in C. Nore).
My 1100/24. Ship sunk, 1 survivor recovered. T.42 and motor launch No.171 standing by. (WATCHMAN, 1113/24 to C.in C. Nore). Your 1100/24 report situation. Is ship still afloat. (C.in C. Nore, 1125/24 to WATCHMAN).

/ Tugs DORIA and ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Tugs DORIA and VENTUROUS proceeding at 1200 and 1230 to assistance of CAMROUX and RYAL. (Admiralty 1219/24 to C.in C. Nore).
Your 1113/24. Is wreck in swept channel, if so can position be given. If survivor on board WATCHMAN give name. (C.in C. Nore, 1241/24 to WATCHMAN).
Your 1241/24. Mine exploded amidships ship blown to pieces. T.42 instructed to Dan Buoy position which is zero (?on) southern edge of swept channel. RYAL was second of 2 motor ships 2 cables dead astern of next ahead.
Survivor Bernard Mannen 1st Engineer. Fractured leg and shock. (WATCHMAN, 1352/24 to C.in C. Nore).

M.L. 171.
Thames Estuary.

M.L. 171 reports when looking for survivors of RYAL mine exploded close ahead. 350° 5 cables from East Knob Buoy. No casualties. Slight damage to boat. (C.in C. Nore, 1839/24 to Admiralty).

Thames Estuary.

At 1038 mines and sinkers exploded in position 4 cables 000° from East Oaze wreckmarking buoy 051° 30' 24" E. Between M/V's and M.L. 171 about 2 cables from each. No damage. (WATCHMAN, 1050/24 to C.in C. Nore).

ALMA DAWSON
(British M/V, 3985 tons).

Reported mined abandoned in skining condition 055° 32' N., 006° (?44') W. Crew safe in SPURT now in company with CLYDE ship stationary, number one hold flooded, number two leaking. Anchor run out by explosion. Have sent ST. LAURENT to report on condition. (ENCHANTRESS, 1219/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Unknown Ship
? ALMA DAWSON

Torpedoed 1045/24, 086° 18 miles Inishtrahull (RIVER LUGAR, no T.O.O. Recd. 1154/24) Ship reported torpedoed, 086° 18 miles Inishtrahull probably mined. As soon as confirmed destroyers detached to hunt are to rejoin convoy and report whether ship salvable. (C.in C. W.A. 1400/24 to OTTAWA).
Your 1255 received. An unknown ship was torpedoed 086° 18 miles from Inishtrahull at 1145. Proceed with all despatch (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1503/24 to SALVONIA)
My 1331. Ship was seen sinking on horizon cause unknown. Raft and wreckage but no boat or survivors were seen on closing to the position. SAGUENAY and ST. LAURENT now in area. Am rejoining convoy with HURRICANE. (HESPERUS 1525/24 to C.in C. W.A.)
2 vessels reported torpedoed or mined 24/11, positions 55° 32' N., 06° 44'W. and 55°
/ 32'N.,

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

? ALMA DAWSON. (contd.) 32' N., 06° 38' W. Consider torpedoing unlikely, casualties may be due to mines from S.N. 43. Intend send 11th M.S.F. to carry out skimming sweep. (C.in C. W.A. 1557/24 to Admiralty). Ship sunk in approx. position 055° 32' N., 006° 44' W. consider this was ALMA DAWSON, as no other ship was seen during search. Am joining SKEENA. (ST. LAURENT, 1655/24 to ENCHANTRESS). My 1503/24, ship has sunk. Return to Belfast (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1800/24 to SALVONIA). Your 1400/24 and ENCHANTRESS 1336/24 Survivors consider ship was sunk by mine. If still not in contact by 2100 intend abandoning search. GREYHOUND in company. (SKEENA, 1944/24 to C.in C. W.A.). Your 1400/24. ST. LAURENT reports ship sunk. (ENCHANTRESS, 2147/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

GAEL sunk. H.M.Y. GAEL, Humber Mouth Patrol Vessel, mined 0820/24 in approx. 180° two miles from Spurn Point Main Lighthouse. Details. Reciprocating engines. Excessive vibration at time from dynamo. Ship was completely shattered internally but hull remained fairly sound. Area not swept for some time. GAEL sunk in approx. 53° 31½' N. 0° 7½' E. Nine survivors landed four injured five uninjured. No deaths. (F.O. Humber 1552/24).

PRESERVER. Mined 054° No. 1 Navigation Buoy Milford Haven 1 cable. M/S Trawlers PERDRANT and B. GEORGETTE sent to search for moored or magnetic mines. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1230/24 to Admiralty).

Thames Estuary. Summary of Pyrotechnic signals and A/C activity for night of 23/24/11. (S.O.T. L.D.F. 1256/24 to C.in C. Nore.).

Tyne. Port is open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1304/24). Port is open. Instruct diesel driven ships not to proceed under own power nearer Tyne than T. 1. Buoy and Sunderland than [illegible]2.Buoy from which position they should ask for tug. (C.in C. Rosyth 1512/24 to EGRET).

Falmouth Port is now open subject to following restrictions (details). (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1453/24 to C.in C. W.A.). Port is open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1515/24).

ALICE MARIE Mined and aground, 255° 8 cables from Knob L.V. Request tug immediately to keep ship on bank as tide rising. Am standing by. (LONDONDERRY, 1525/24 to C.in C. Nore) My 1525/24. LONDONDERRY returning to harbour Tug SUN V standing by (LONDONDERRY 1613/24 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

ALICE MARIE (contd.)

In F.S. 42 mined and aground. 255° Knob L.V. 5 cables. Tug standing by. (C.in C. Nore 1651/24 to Admiralty). Your 1651/24. Abandoned partly under water. Crew being taken off and tug withdrawn. Casualties one injured. (F.C.S.O. Thames, 1851/24 to C.in C. Nore).

THOMAS M.

Coast Vessel THOMAS M mined and sunk 1512/24, 135° 1.5 miles Yarmouth harbour entrance. Casualties 1 missing and 7 injured. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1620/24 to Admiralty).
Information fron only uninjured survivor; left examination vessel and proceeding about 4 knots on W.N.W. course.
Mine exploded under after part.
Dutch built, 6 cylinder Deutry Diesel engines. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1948/24 to Admiralty).

AMETHYST

LE TIGER reports AMETHYST sunk by mine vicinity Barrow L.V. all crew saved. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1648/24 to C.in C. Nore).

BEHAR

Mined 230° Gt. Castle Head Lower Light 4.5 cables PERDRANT and GEORGETTE (Sweepers) sent to search for moored or magnetic mines.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1725/24 to Admiralty).

A/P Drifters.

Your 1339/7/11. Is it the intention to limit movement of A/P drifters and yachts already fitted with diesel engines, there are 3 such vessels at Lowestoft.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1729/24 to Admiralty).

GOOD DESIGN

My 2311/23. Explosion believed to have occurred under stern of GOOD DESIGN. (details). Position where explosion occurred was in shell D.G. range area in use at time and which had been cleared by L.L. swept over by similar diesel engined boats. (C.in C. Rosyth 1903/24 to Admiralty).

Blyth.

Closed, suspected minelaying. Expect to open 2231/24. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 2231/24). Closed. Ships bound Blyth to be deflected to Tyne.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2344/24 to VERSATILE)

Diesel engined Patrol Vessels.

Pending further instructions, Diesel engined patrol vessels are not to enter waters likely to be laid with acoustic mines. (C.in C. Nore, 2237/24 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

PIKEPOOL.

(British, 3683 tons) Believed mined off Smalls Light at 0500/22. Survivors landed at Milford Haven (D.O.R. 24/11).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy. — 4 Destroyers and 6 M/V's steering 150° in 58° 3' N. 6° 50' E. (A/C. of 218 Squadron 1300/24 to Rosyth).

E-Boats. — Reported near H.R. Patrol and 4 miles E. of 54 B. Buoy. (C.in C. Nore 2029/24 to CAMPBELL, GARTH).
Reported near Aldeburgh Light Float. (C.in C. Nore 2047/24 to SHELDRAKE)
Unknown War Motor Boat 045° Berry Head. (Portsmouth W/T 2206/24).
Still off Yarmouth. (C.in C. Nore 2315/24 to CAMPBELL).

Boulogne, Cherbourg. — Warships and Shipping at 1425/24. (P.I.U. 2105/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BATH — Damage sustained by sea with W.S. 4 B Convoy (R.A.M.L. 0921/22 to Admty.)

M/V — Aircraft report at 1752/23 one M/V 5000 tons in 47° 10' N., 6° 50' W., stationary and may be in distress. (V.A.S 1009/24)

PELEUS — Sailed for Swansea towed by SEINE and attended by GOLIATH. Making water and requires docking at once. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1815/24 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

24.11.1940.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

S.L. 54. Not met. My p.c. and s. French sloop minesweeper CHEVREUIL in company. Weather. (HEARTSEASE, 1045/24, to C.in C. W.A.) Position. (C.in C. W.A. 1715/24 to HEARTSEASE).

N.X.86. Route, to steer clear of minefields. (C.in C. W.A. 1515/24 to CASTLETON)

S.C.11. DERBY COUNTY to R.V. (C.in C. W.A. 1533/24 2109/24) Blenheim a/c escort not reported since leaving Aldergrove (C.in C. W.A., 2010/24).

O.G.46. Intend MARSDALE should proceed Gibraltar with O.G.16, and later to area R.3 (F.O.C.W.A., 1930/24).

F.N., F.S. Time tables to supersede my 1255/4/10, for 9 knot and 7 knot ships. (C.in C. Rosyth 1943/24).
Escorts. Amending his 1951/19. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1945/24).

H.X.91. REVENGE to escort. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1533/24)

H.X.85. Route, to keep clear of minefield (C.in C. W.A. 1509/24 to SABRE for Cdre, SARDONYX, HELIOTROPE, CLARKIA)

O.B. In future all O.B. Convoys will normally disperse at nightfall on day that local escorts part company (D.T.D. 2205/24).

SUDERHOLM)
BRITA MAERSK) My 1739/23. Sailings may now be resumed. (C.in C. W.A. 0815/24).

Troop Convoys.

ORDUNA
ADDA Sailed CAIRO in accordance C.in C. W.A. 1333/23. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0600/24).

CAPETOWN CASTLE
PASTEUR. Admty. 1548/21. Escort sailing 27/11. HIGHLANDER from Liverpool, GARLAND from Clyde. (C.in C. W.A., 1211/24).

Accoustic Mines. Pending further instructions, Diesel-engined patrol vessels not to enter waters likely to be laid with accoustic mines. (C.in C. Nore, 2237/24).

E. Boats. Attacks on merchant ships by - (See Policy).

MOST SECRET.

24.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Ships, Scuttling Report. N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports all French ships have orders to scuttle themselves if in danger of falling into our hands. All escorts have orders to open fire if we interfere with their convoys. (F.O.C. N.A. 0257/24 to Ships and Authorities N. Atlantic Station).
Your 1714/23. Request you will grade reliability of source and if possible obtain confirmation of second sentence. (D.N.I., 1803/24 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon)

CROIX. Spanish Master reports 0930/21 passing French S.S. CROIX off Cape Cantin steering S. with large number of black troops. This ship cannot be found in Lloyds. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1916/24 to C.in C. S.A.)

French Warships, Martinique. My 1731/19 and my 1001/21.
Intercepted letter written about end of September by Admiral Robert, High Commissioner for Martinique, to M. Le Luc, Vichy official, consigned by hand of Messrs. Cardo and Revoil, states following:
(1) Condition of Aircraft Carrier BEARN. Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC Cruiser Minelayer EMILE BERTIN, and either BARFLEUR or ESTEREL can be kept effective on peace time basis with personnel remaining after repatriation of reservists. All ships will soon need repairs which cannot be carried out at Martinique.
(2) Need for warships to be allowed to steam about within area of French West Indies to maintain morale of crews.
(3) Existing good understanding with Admiral Greenslade would enable (2) to be effected.
(4) Oil necessary for local warship movements probably obtainable Automobile Agency of United States Naval Representative at Martinique who has already arranged delivery by U.S.tankers of 2,000 tons of heavy oil for factories and harbour use of vessels.
(5) Need for clearer definition of authority of High Commissioner.
(6) Request for Benoch, French N.A. Washington, to join Roberts staff at Martinique.
In view of (2) above and possibility BEARN being sent to Dakar suggest (4) is very undesirable. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1101/24, to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Collar". C.in C. Med. ? 1619/21 para. 5. Area intended to be covered with ARK ROYAL A/C (details) (S.O. Force H, 0910/24 to V.A. Malta.)
Reconnaissance from ARK ROYAL (details). Orders to RAMILLIES, NEWCASTLE, BERWICK and COVENTRY. (S.O. Force H, 1018/24 to RAMILLIES, BERWICK, NEWCASTLE, COVENTRY).

PUNGUE (Portuguese M/V. 3993 tons). My 1233/22 and Admiralty 1611/22 PUNGUE from West Africa to Lisbon and Leixoes. Cargo as follows. Removed 18 bags mail. Vessel called San Thome 4/11 but master refused to load cargo, no British Consul being there. Master trying to conform to regulations. Copy manifest follows, vessel detained pending instructions. (Conband, Gibraltar, 1045/24 to Admiralty).

PUNGUE, CUNENE, SIQUEIRA CAMPOS Following from M.E.W. four 1740/23. PUNGUE and CUNENE may be released and may take those passengers of Brazilian ship SIQUEIRA CAMPOS who prefer returning Lisbon now to remaining Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 1440/24 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar)

Gibraltar Air Report. Daily Summary Operations. (200 Group, 1730/24 to Air Min.)

South Atlantic.

THORSHAVN My 0935/20. Cancel (overdue shipping) (S.O.(I) Capetown 0855B/24).

PENNLAND Your 1808/21, my 1413/18, 1957/18 and 2025/21 gave route and date arrival at Jamaica and proposed be used to return military guard to Freetown. Sailed Freetown 21/11. (C.in C. S.A. 1203N/24 to D. of S.T.)

Suspicious Vessel. BIRCHBANK reports sighting Brigantine 100 to 150 tons 44° 55' N., 33° 56' W. at 1000/4/11 G.M.T. probably same craft reported by ROCHESTER CASTLE, 1514/4/11. Master states he saw similar craft on 13/9 near where SAINT AGNES torpedoed. Considers movements suspicious, suggests may be acting as decoy for S/M; also reports arrived 1030/9/11 in position where RIDLEY torpedoed, searched until 1900/9/11 for survivors but no boat or trace of wreckage sighted. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1215B/24 to Admiralty).

/BRITANNIC
KENT .....

MOST SECRET.

24.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Continued)

BRITANNIC
KENT

Your 1747/23. BRITANNIC carrying 304 military and naval personnel ready to sail from Capetown 1200/25.
Master proposes proceeding to Liverpool direct. Suggest should be routed Freetown escorted by KENT. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1223B/24 to C.in C. S. Atlantic)
Your 1223B/24. KENT should escort BRITANNIC as far as equator, BRITANNIC to be routed independently onward to Liverpool.
(C.in C. S.A. 2043H/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Suspicious
Warship

Coast watches reports warship proceeding eastwards high speed 12 miles N. of Pebble Island 0930 zone plus three. Seek confirmation.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Isles, 1446Z/24 to R.A.S. American Division).

My 1446Z/24. Still awaiting further information, situation meanwhile vague. From scanty description by coast watchers ship may be Argentine Cruiser ARGENTINA.
B.N.A. Buenos Aires please ascertain if possible. (N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 1920Z/24 to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 1920Z/24 ship apparently proceeding North. Partially intercepted signal of great strength asking in Spanish for Meteorological Report appears to confirm opinion that she is ARGENTINA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 2313Z/24).

Your 1920/24. LA ARGENTINA is now in Buenos Aires (N.A. Buenos Aires 2240/24)

DELHI.

Your 2042/23 understood. DELHI will fire 36 single gun salvoes throw off 60.
(DELHI, 1819/24 to F.O. 1 C.S.)

A/A defences.

0/2070 cipher 24/11. Your 89062 (M.O.4) 15/11. Not possible provide required information until my G.S.O.1. R.A. who only arrived yesterday is able to proceed Freetown and make thorough examination problem. Consider it unlikely however that additional A.A. resources enumerated your 87996 (M.O.4) November 7th will be adequate to include protection transport facilities Repel. The position is that in addition protection which will eventually be required for Hastings C.in C. South Atlantic is pressing for some A.A. defences to be sited on Bullom shore as ships very vulnerable to attack from that direction.
(C.O.C. W. Africa, Accra, 1135/24 to War Office).

/ Takoradi
and Lagos Aerodromes .....

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Takoradi and Lagos Aerodromes. 90211 cipher (M.O.4) 24/11. Your G/2069 22/11. Your anxiety about safety of aerodromes at Takoradi and Lagos appreciated but it is vital that all fighter aircraft reach Middle East earliest possible. Nothing must be done to delay these aircraft on any account. (War Office, 1935/24 to G.O.C. West Africa).

Mediterranean.

Greece. Situation. (M.A. Athens to W.O., 0230/24).

PANDORA. Operation B.S. To leave Alexandria 1700/25. Route. (Capt. S.1, 0937/24)

Crete. Q.B.C. 156, Crete, Suda Bay. Details of searched Channel. (R.A., Alexandria, 1351/24).

Lack of A.R.P., Egypt. Drawing attention to Cairo message 1874 of 20/11 to F.O. Lack of A.R.P. a considerable danger to internal security. (C.in C. Med., to Admty. 2147/24).

Minelaying - Turkey. Following action is necessary to complete preparations for laying (C.in C. Med. 1615/24).

Air Report. Operational summary No. 167 up to 1200 hours 24.11.40. 1. Greece.
Day 23/11. 9 Blenheims despatched to bomb Durazzo were forced to return by exceptionally bad weather.
3 Blenheims despatched to attack Elbasan, of which 1 located and bombed target, remaining 2 returning owing to bad weather. 1 fighter Blenheim patrolled over Athens. All aircraft returned safely. 13 Blenheims 211 Squadron arrived in Greece from Egypt.
2. Egypt. 3. Udas. No naval items.
4. Kenya. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1206/24).

Alexandria Raid. Air raid 0425 to 0545. About 18 bombs mostly in city area. Civilian casualties 2 killed 28 injured by shell splinters. Slight material damage to a factory and 2 houses collapsed. Plane obviously attacking harbour but driven off by barrage.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1325/24).

/ Coast defences. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.11.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Coast defences.

(1) In view present situation in Eastern Mediterranean consider two naval 6-inch guns awaiting mounting at Haifa should be released for Turkey as originally intended.
(2) Consider two 6-inch guns in transit from U.K. for Alexandria (She-Faldhana) should now be allotted Matruh as most desirably Matruh should have defences against possible bombardment from sea.
(3) Should further six inch guns become available consider priority of issue should be (A) Alexandria two (B) Haifa two. (C.in C. M.E. 1350/24).

Air Attack on Durazzo.

Operational summary No.11 No.211 Squadron.
9 Blenheims attacked DURAZZO 1400 hours 24/11. Direct hits on 10,000 ton ship and smaller ships, latter burst into flames, remainder of bombs in dock area or alongside ships at quay. Intense and accurate A.A. fire. 1 aircraft missing.
4 Aircraft detained at Larissa reports awaited. (H.Q. B.A.F., Greece, 1930/24)

Attack on Malta.

1600-1630 6 C.R. 42's carried out dusk low flying attack on Luga aerodrome.
One Wellington on ground burnt out.
One enemy a/c possibly damaged.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1730/24).

East Indies.

Air Patrol.

Probable there is now an air patrol to a depth of at least 50 miles from Kismayu (C.in C. E.I. 0450Z/24 to E.I. Station).

QUEEN ELIZABETH

My 1300/23. Request may be routed as follows (details). (C.in C. E.I. 0514Z/24 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Assab Raided.

Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/24.
1 Blenheim 8 Squadron on armed reconnaissance of Eritrean Coast 0525 to 0810 dropped 4 bombs 0620 very near a ship in Assab Harbour which usually fires at aircraft. Of 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron sent to bomb Bizellis transport yard, Assab, 1 returned with bomb as turret was unserviceable.
1 at 1200 started fire visible 50 miles
1 at 1240 added all bombs to conflagration. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron patrolled convoy B.N.9½ 0400 to 1330 all times G.M.T. No damage or casualties.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1830/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.11.1940.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Raider, PORT HOBART Attacked.

Enemy raider reported shelling PORT HOBART (British 7448 tons) 024 degs. 44' N. 058 degs. 21' W. at 1530Z/24. Proceed at 20 knots and endeavour to locate raider. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1201/24 to DIOMEDE).

H.H.X.91.

Departure, Ocean escort ASCANIA returning to Bermuda (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1153/23).

Your 1201/24 Trinidad reports same information broadcast by Z U A N at 1135 local time today. Z U A N secret W/T call sign for GORJISTAN, due Trinidad 22/11 for Capetown. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1454/24).

124. Enemy Raider in position 024° 44' N., 058° 21' W. at 1530 G.M.T. 24/11. Homeward bound independent shipping is to keep West of 035 degrees West until North of 030 degrees North. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1232/24 to N.C.S.O's, Atlantic Coast). Instructing ships to keep well clear. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1248/24 to C.B.M.3.7).

Raider TREHATA report

Following has been received. Warship Raider. 55.11 N., 20. 40 W., TREHATA (British, 4817 tons) sighted suspicious vessel. (Plymouth W/T, 1328/24)

Troop Convoys.

Admty. 1548/21 reports WINDSOR CASTLE delayed. Can reply yet be given to my 1123/17 if accommodation is required in LADY HAWKINS and LADY RODNEY. Admty. 2333/23. Can WINDSOR CASTLE also be under escort of T.C.8? (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1544/24 to Admty.)

KLIPFONTEIN, Japanese Inquiry.

Following from San Pedro (begins) Master of Dutch ship NOORDAM reports that on 20/11 when he was three days from San Pedro an unknown Japanese ship was calling Dutch ship KLIPFONTEIN. KLIPFONTEIN broke wireless silence and replied. Japanese ship then asked if she was KLIPFONTEIN and on receiving answer in affirmative then ceased signalling. KLIPFONTEIN due Honolulu 30/11 (Ends.) Can you confirm position of KLIPFONTEIN. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1253/24 to Capt. O.S., Singapore).

H.X.91. REVENGE

Cancel my 1222/23 (Giving MONTCLARE as escort) REVENGE will sail as Ocean Escort for H.X.91, subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1533/24).

MOST SECRET.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Trieste — Reported all German ships at Trieste preparing to transport German troops to Albania. (List) (D.S. 446).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GRADISCA — Told at 2145/23 to proceed to Valona instead of Durazzo. (D.S. 446).

FRANCO MARTELLI — Legally seized at Parnambuco 10/11 on account of debt to Vacuum Oil Co. (D.S. 446).

MOST SECRET.

24.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BUSSUM (torpedoed 23/11).

SALVONIA is to proceed to assistance of BUSSUM in position 55° 39' N., 08° 58' W. at 2006/23. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0140/24 to SALVONIA).

ENCHANTRESS 2355/23. Nothing seen of BUSSUM. At 1000 spoke with SALVONIA and informed her considered 055° 37' North correct. Fuel remaining will not permit continued search. My position course and speed 055° 38' N. 009° 06' W. 090°, 14, Visibility 6. (SAGUENAY, 1015/24).

SALVONIA has found BUSSUM abandoned in 55° 47' N. 8° 22' W. and will connect up when weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1413/24, to Admty.)

My 1413. BUSSUM broke in half and sank at 1353. She was abandoned when found by SALVONIA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1459/24 to Admty.)

BRUSE (torpedoed 23/11)

Tug THAMES is to proceed to assistance of BRUSE in position 55° 16' N. 12° 05' W. Cargo 1150 tons lumber. ENGLISHMAN has also been sent. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0147/24).

C.in C. Western Approaches. Rpd. GQQL SALVONIA. Have sighted BRUSE in position 055° 39' N. 011° 31' W. After part shot away. (BLUEBELL, 1545/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

BRUSE was sighted in position 55° 38' N. 11° 31' W. at 1545 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1935/24 to ENGLISHMAN, THAMES)

BRUSE sighted at 1600 today in position 55° 31' N. 11° 29' W. Report when you proceed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1812/25 to ENGLISHMAN)

ANTEN (torpedoed 23/11).

S/M Raider Signal. ANTEN torpedoed 0730/23 position approx. 56 57 N. 18 18 W. at 1500/23 drifting due east. requires immediate assistance. (Land's End, 0931/24 0940/24).

Your 1311/23/11. ANTEN bunkers of good quality 850 tons Marine Fuel Oil Speed 10 knots 1500 tons Sand Ballast. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1048/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

SHIA (ANTEN) has given amended position 056° 57' N. 018° 18' W. at 1500/23 drifting due east. D.F. bearings indicate position may be about 20 miles further South. (C.in C. W.A. 1129/24 to SANDWICH).

/ Have boarded ....

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Continued)

Have boarded ANTEN number 2 and 3 holds completely wrecked ship can be steamed stern first only but do not consider much progress could be made. Master insists ship will break in half but consider ship might be saved with assistance of tugs provided weather does not deteriorate. Crew not willing to remain on board have therefore embarked master 18 officers and men and master and 1 officer of (groups missing) ?OBJ .
Owing to darkness have had to leave 14 men on board intend to take them off at daylight. (SANDWICH 1800Z/24).

Your 1800/24. Tug DILIGENT is being sent. (C.in C. W.A. 2344/24 to SANDWICH).

Cancel my 0830/23 proceed to torpedoed ANTEN in position 066° 48' N. 018° 30' W. at 1800/24. SANDWICH standing by and reports ship can be steamed stern first. (?C.in C. W.A., 2228/24 to DILIGENT)

Submarines Reported.

0148. 55 to 56° N., W. of 20° W. indefinite (D.S. 446).

2010. D.F., Italian U/B. approx. position between 45 and 47° N., 4°-5° W. V.A.S. to S/M's on Patrol, 2043/24)

2046. D.F., Italian U/B, 54 to 55° N., 16 to 20° W., unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A., 2335/24 to DEPTFORD)

1145. Detach available destroyers to hunt U/B reported 086° 18 miles from Inishtrahull at 1145. (C.in C. W.A., 1222/24 to ENCHANTRESS). Your 1222. SKEENA detached. She has 84 tons oil fuel remaining. (ENCHANTRESS, 1536/24)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - The one that has been in Western Approaches seems now to be nearing Bordeaux.
1 was about 60 miles W.N.W. of Rockall at 1951/23.
1 more may be in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
German - 1 in Sierra Leone area or farther North.
Possibly 1 in Western Approaches.
1 was some 240 miles W. of Slyne Head 2029/23.
1 was in 55 degs. 39' N. 8 degs. 58' W. at 2005/23 attacking S.C.11.
1 was reported in 55degs. 45' N. 13 degs. W. at 2249/23.
1 was in area 55 degs. to 56 degs N. and W. of 20 degs. W. at 0148/24. / 1 was ...

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (Continued)

1 was in about 56 degs. 57' N. 18 degs. 18'W. at 0830/23 attacking O.B.244.
1 maybe to the Northward of Rockall, whereabouts unknown.
1 possibly in area 58 degs. to 60 degs. N. and W. of 20 degs. W.
1 was off Norwegian coast, probably N. of 61 degs. N. at 2154/23.
(D.D.I.C. 1307/24).

Information of D.F. Reports.

Admty. 2230/22 informed authorities concerned that thes convoys had been reported by an Italian U-boat.
Owing to bad D/F conditions the evidence that a German U-boat was in the vicinity was slender, no fix being obtained. The number of signals finally indicated the possibility of the convoys being shadowed and you were informed. Instructions have been given that you are to be informed immediately of similar slender indications.
(D.D.I.C. 1149/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

My 1312/24. After doubtful sight attacked firm contact in position 055° 28' (? 14 "or 30") N. 007° 07' W. Fired five patterns without result. No Doppler after first pattern. Still in contact intend to remain 24 hours.
(MALCOLM, 1713/24).

16/17 October.

It is reported by a reliable source that an Italian submarine operating from Bordeaux was sunk as a result of air attack on 16/17 October (Air Min. D.S. 483).

MOST SECRET

25.11.1940
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Scapa.
Defence against
Air Attack

Your 2206/24 I again urge that best method of hindering this form of attack is to destroy by bombing enemy aircraft at Bergen, Stavanger and Kristiansand south Aerodromes and seaplane bases. This necessitates the use of heavy bombers from North Shetlands or Orkneys and also from Shetlands which latter necessitates the making of another Aerodrome in Shetlands a matter I have been pressing for last two years.
I cannot of course confirm that berthing of the Fleet and general arrangements are such as to preclude a successful attack as no human being could do that.
(C. in C., H.F. 1517/25 to Admty)

A/S Patrol for
Firth of Lorne

To protect merchant vessels at Oban usually about 35 in number an A/S patrol of one vessel is required at Southern end of Firth of Lorne. The three trawlers for escorting Oban Group of W.N. convoys are unable to provide the patrol.
Request 2 A/S vessels suitable for comparatively sheltered waters of Firth of Lorne be allocated to Oban.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

NIGERIA

Your 1917/24. Can NIGERIA rejoin the Fleet at Scapa to provide auxiliary cruiser for the Home Fleet Hunting Group. KENYA and NAIAD are unfit for rough weather and former is proceeding to Plymouth shortly. No carrier is available. One Cruiser will be required as ocean escort for Minelayers laying Faroes-Iceland field for some weeks. (C. in C., H.F. 1610/25 to Admty.)

Enemy Raiders
Policy & measures
to be adopted.

Amendment to Admty 0036/25 (D.O.D. (F) 1134/25) See Operations Volume.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE

At 1200/25 (D.C. 1207/25) At 2330/25 (D.C. 2330/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer Operation

The four destroyers under Captain D. 5. in JAVELIN which last night carried out a sweep off Ushant to cover shipping between Dartmouth and Falmouth, as it was thought possible that 3 enemy destroyers might be operating off the south coast between 1° 30' W and 6° W., (see 23/11, 24/11) failed to intercept the enemy.

Continual firing was seen from shore off the Lizard between 0003 and 0130. Tanker APOLLONIA in ballast from Plymouth to Avonmouth is reported to have been sunk, and it was reported that Belgian trawlers fishing off the Wolf Rock were attacked, though reports are conflicting and it is believed that all are accounted for except two who may be fishing. Tug LYNCH which was in the neighbourhood is missing and one of two barges which were with her have been washed ashore at Portlever. Two other vessels, SS FERNWOOD and STADION II are believed to have been in the neighbourhood.

At 1601 orders were sent to D. 5 to take his force towards a position 15 miles south of the Lizard. JACKAL left Plymouth at 1700 to join D.5. Instructions were later sent to D. 5 that he was free to intercept where he thought fit the 3 enemy destroyers which were thought likely to operate between 1° 30' W and 6° W to-night.

All night aircraft patrol was arranged and a Blenheim escort was held in readiness for D. 5. Local patrols and submarines were withdrawn.

M.T.B. Sweep

Three M.T.B's from Dover operated between Calais and Boulogne last night. There was nothing to report.

/CONQUISTADOR....

MOST SECRET

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Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands-Contd.

CONQUISTADOR — M/S Trawler CONQUISTADOR sank this morning in the Thames Estuary after collision with M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS. The latter was damaged.

Convoy C.W.18 Shelled — Heavy coastal batteries fired about 200 rounds at Convoy C.W. 18 this afternoon and evening. One ship was slightly damaged by a near miss.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — The Blohm and Voss shipyards and other targets at Hamburg were bombed last night as well as the docks at Wilhelmshaven and targets at Sylt, Rendsburg, Helder, Rotterdam, Uist and Boulogne.

Enemy Air Activity

A major attack took place on the Bristol area last night.

German reconnaissance aircraft were again active today between Firth of Forth and Orkneys. The aircraft R.C. from Brest extended 200 miles to the westwards. Somewhat similar activity was noted prior to the attack on convoy H.X. 84 by SCHEER on 5/11.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft took place on the East Coast and Thames Estuary.

R.A.F. laid 3 mines off the Texel this evening.

/KENTYMORE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

KENTYMORE — M/S Trawler KENTYMORE was mined and sunk this evening in the Thames Estuary. Mines were detonated in the Estuary last night and today.

TEES HOPPER No 3 — TEES HOPPER No.3 was mined and sunk off Hartlepool this morning.

M.L. 111 Sunk — M.L. 111 was mined and sunk off Spurn Point this morning.

Milford Haven — Several mines were detonated off Milford Haven today. The port was closed at 0815 and reopened, with restrictions at 1240.

Tyne — KIPLING exploded a mine off the Tyne, but was undamaged. QZS.171 was closed at 0847.

Blyth — Blyth was opened at 1344.

Plymouth — After an interval of several days mine-laying by enemy aircraft off Plymouth has recommenced and at least 2 mines were dropped in or near the searched channel yesterday evening. Ships are only allowed to arrive and leave for limited periods immediately after the channel has been swept twice daily.

South Atlantic

Operation "Stripe" — FURIOUS arrived at Freetown 0900 today.

MOST SECRET

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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

SS PATRIA carrying illegal immigrants was sabotaged this morning and capsized at the breakwater at Haifa.

Operation "Collar"

S.O.Force H. in RENOWN, with ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, DESPATCH, FOC 18 C.S. in MANCHESTER, with SOUTHAMPTON, FAULKNOR, FURY, FIREDRAKE, FORRESTER, KELVIN, JAGUAR, ENCOUNTER and WISHART left Gibraltar at 0830 today for Operation "Collar"

The four corvettes PEONY, SALVIA, HYACINTH, GLOXINIA with DUNCAN and HOTSPUR left Gibraltar at 0100 today to R.V. with the M.T. ships.

1st Divn. of 1st B.S., ILLUSTRIOUS, 3rd C.S. and 8 destroyers left Alexandria today for Suda Bay and the Central Mediterranean.

Greek-Italian Operations.

It is clear from reports of our own bombers today, who found many transports unloading at Durazzo and Valona that the Italians are trying to retrieve the situation by landing extensive reinforcements. N.A. Athens reports that the vital need is to impede this movement.

M.T.Convoy Bombed

Blenheims which attacked Tepelene and Argyrocastron today dropped bombs on a convoy of 8 M.T., scoring safe hits.

A standing patrol was maintained over Athens.

America & West Indies

MALOJA was ordered to assist DIOMEDE to search for the raider reported yesterday by SS PORT HOBART.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ST. MARYS — Sailed Port Z.A. 0930/25 to comply with C. in C., H.F. 1228/24 (TRELAWNEY 0932/25)

HOLLYHOCK — Sailed for Tobermory 1015/25 (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1045/25)

Patrol O
CAMPBELL
GARTH
EGLINTON

(1) For the present in order to avoid use of Barrow Deep by Destroyers proceeding to and from Patrol O CAMPBELL and GARTH are to remain at Harwich.

(2) EGLINTON is to proceed to Sheerness on completion of Patrol O tomorrow tuesday joining F.S. 44.

(3) Harwich destroyers are to carry out Patrol O Flotillas taking alternate nights Sheerness destroyers will be used for reinforcing Dover or convoy escorts as may be required.

(4) Starting tomorrow Tuesday there is to be one duty destroyer at Harwich and one at Sheerness Notice for steam as in my 1119/23/10. Cancel my 1201/21/11. (C. in C., Nore, 1209/25)

Dover — Patrols for Night 25/26 (V.A.Dover 1221/25)

Orkneys — Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1526/25)

FURIOUS
DIDO

My 0046/25.
1. FURIOUS is to proceed to Devonport for refit.

2. C. in C., Western Approaches is requested to detail additional A/S escort from 5th D.F. and to arrange rendezvous whence FURIOUS with escort should proceed to Devonport South of Ireland and DIDO should proceed to Scapa.

3. C. in C., Western Approaches to arrange route from latitude of Gibraltar and give all necessary instructions.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1531/25 to C. in C., W.A)

Rosyth — Movements tonight (C. in C., Rosyth 1536/25)

/Chasseurs....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd

Chasseurs for Patrol — A.M. 1651/25. Anticipate you will not sail Group from Dartmouth tonight. Cancel my 1217/25 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1747/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

FORMIDABLE
VESPER
VENOMOUS — My 1259/17. After completion of trials on 28th November FORMIDABLE will proceed to Belfast for four days to complete defects.
VESPER and VENOMOUS should be retained to form part of escort for FORMIDABLE to Scapa whence they should proceed as directed by C. in C., Nore.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2046/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

CAIRO — Return to Clyde, giving A/A cover to convoys on the way. (C. in C., W.A. 2245/25 to CAIRO)

BROKE's Force — Estimated my p, c and s at 2000 was 055° 30' N., 012° 28' W., 280° 8 knots.
SALADIN SCIMITAR in company. MALLOW ANEMONE ARABIS proceeding independently Destroyers may meet H.X. 88 before dark on 26th if weather no worse. SCIMITAR will have to be sent back to Londonderry daylight 27th as her evaporator is out of action.
(BROKE 2257/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

Operations

D. 5. — When returning from operation, pass through 10 miles S.E. of Wolf Rock where a tanker and a number of Belgian Trawlers are reported to have sunk. (C. in C., W.A. 0827/25 to Capt. D. 5.)

Preliminary report of enemy action night of 24/25 November.
APOLLONIA (Sunk) Saved 7 Officers, 2 Seaman gunners, 12 Chinese. Lost, 1 Officer, 13 Chinese.

Belgian Fishing Trawlers:
MARGARET SIMONE sunk. Crew Saved.
MINERVA and JANDENYE, been reported seen fishing since.
ZEESTER and ANGELE EMILE, missing but may be fishing.
Further details when known.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1020/26 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Have steam.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Have steam at half hours notice in available boilers by 1600. (C. in C., W.A. 1219/25 to JACKAL)

Full report of D. 5's movements not yet available as Flotilla is at sea.

2. Tanker APOLLONIA in ballast, Plymouth to Avonmouth was sunk, 19 survivors have so far been landed. A number of Belgian trawlers fishing off Wolf Rock also reported sunk. but details not yet available.

3. D. 5. in JAVELIN, with JUPITER and KASHMIR, swept in vicinity of Ushant, but failed to intercept enemy.

4. Further report will be forwarded. (C. in C., W.A. 1305/25 to Admty.)

Proceed with Destroyers towards 180° Lizard 15 miles. (Plymouth 1601/25 to D.5.)

JACKAL sailed from Plymouth 1720/25 (C. in C., W.A. 0049/26 to Admty.)

If you sight Boom Defence Trawler CONSBRO which left Plymouth 1630 for Dartmouth, send her back to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1735/25 to JACKAL)

3 Enemy Destroyers likely to operate off English Coast tonight. When JACKAL joins patrol on 49° 50' N., between 4° and 5° W Information following. (C. in C., W.A. 1743/25 to Capt D.5.)

Dutch ship APOLLONIA was sunk last night 24/11 by enemy action, South East Wolf Rock Twenty two survivors, Dutch and Chinese. Four badly wounded. Seventeen missing. Tug LYNCH was also in vicinity with two barges. One of these has been washed ashore at Portleven. No other news of LYNCH. It was first reported that Belgian Trawlers had been attacked, but all have been accounted for except two, who may have continued fishing. Other vessels believed to have been in vicinity were FERNWOOD and STADION II from Plymouth. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1615/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

My 1743. Information.
1. Enemy The three enemy destroyers probably from Brest are likely to operate between 01° 30' W and 06° 00' W.,
2. Own Local patrols in Western Approaches Part of channel withdrawn. 2 unescorted M/V's sailed Falmouth 1600 towards Bristol channel.
LEEDS UNITED with 3 M/V's for Plymouth and VICTRIX, LORD HAILSHAM and LORD STANHOPE with Tanker SUDERHOLME for Dartmouth, have been ordered not to join south of Cape Cornwall, before 0200/26.
3. One Hudson with A.S.V. will patrol all night between 49° 28' N., 07° 00' W., 49° 00' N., 06° 45' W., 49° 53' N., 03° 20'W 49° 17' N., 03° 00' W.,
Ships are to take care not to fire on this aircraft.
4. Object Your object is the destruction of enemy forces. (C. in C., W.A. 1845/25 to D. 5.)

Your 1707. You are free to intercept where you think fit when information of enemy is received. (ii) Blenheim escort will be ready if you signal rendezvous. (iii) None of our submarines are in area concerned. (C. in C., W.A. 1951/25 to D.5.)

Chasseurs Patrol off Anvil Points

912. It is possible that lights sighted from Portland during night of 23/24 were those of enemy air rescue craft. If weather is suitable tonight Chasseurs 05, 13 and 42 are to patrol within a sector between bearings of 150° and 200° true from Anvil Point to a depth of 20 miles from 2200 to 0200. Patrols QU, QV and WW to be withdrawn. No traffic to pass through patrol sector. Anvil Point light to be shown for five minutes at every hour from 2200 to 0200 inclusive. Policy is to shoot at sight. Further signal will be made if operation is to be carried out. Request SHERWOOD, LANCASTER and CHESTERFIELD may be routed well clear. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1217/25 to Admty.)

VOLUNTEER
BERKELEY

Will patrol to southward of Convoy route between Owers and Royal Sovereign to-night, returning Portsmouth at Daylight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1809/25 to Admty.)

/M.G.B. Patrol...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

M.G.B. Patrol off Dartmouth

Sail available M.G.B's to patrol outside Dartmouth to intercept possible E-Boats They are not to go South of latitude of Start Point unless in contact with enemy. (C. in C., W.A. 2001/25 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Dover and Convoy C.W.18 Shelled

904. Enemy Coastal Batteries fired twelve rounds between 0845 and 1051 to-day One round fell in the sea and remainder in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery One soldier killed. Superficial damage to Leathercoates signal station. Batteries at Gris Nez, Wissant and near Calais fired about 200 rounds at C.W. 18 between 1834 and 2141. No damage to convoy reported. (V.A.Dover 2230/25 to Admty.)

Submarines

TAKU

Enter Patrol Area (Capt S.2. 0146/25 to TAKU)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/26. (V.A.S. 1653/25)

British Air Activity

Patrols

S.A. 1 A Cancelled owing to weather. S.16 A and S 16 B not flown. Assessments of S.A.1 E, S.A. and S.A. 3. (C. in C., Rosyth 1538 and 1948/25)

Falmouth Balloon Defences

C. in C., W.A. 1626/24 and 1142/24. Single balloon in area described in your 1739/18 would afford little protection and detachment of further balloons from main Falmouth Barrage would considerably weaken it. If you accept consequent reduction of protection Air Ministry agree to redisposition suggested in C. in C., W.A. 1142/24 with effect from 1700 hours 26/11 when all concerned will have been warned. Recommend detached sites be replaced by V.L.A. Balloons at earliest possible opportunity. (Air Ministry 1734/25 to Admty.

/Balloons.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Balloons in Ships

Your A 87 of 23/11 intention is eventually to fly balloons from ships operating from Plymouth, Portland, Portsmouth, Sheerness Harwich, Great Yarmouth, Humber, Forth and Bristol Channel. As long notice as possible will be given before proposing to start operations from any port but definite dates cannot at present be given. Date of 25th November for operations between Portsmouth and Sheerness given in my 1630/19 will probably now be 29th Nov. and Sheerness and Harwich will follow about mid December other ports later. (Admty. 1836/25 to Air Ministry)

Rosyth

Air Searches for 26/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1926/25)

Enemy Air Activity

LEONOLA (Q.V.I.)

Attacked at 1023/24 in 90° Old Harry Rock 5 miles by one Dornier with Machine Guns 3 hits. No casualties. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1151/25 to Admty.)

Whale Island

Estimated cost of repair of damage by Air Raid on night 23/11 £20. (S.C.E. Portsmouth 1615/25 to C.E. in C.)

Scapa

At 1335 today A/A Batteries on South Walls Hoy, engaged unseen A/C believed enemy travelling S.E. (A.C.O.S. 1709/25 to Admty)

Enemy R/C

My 1526/24 and 1803/24. German reconnaissance aircraft again active today off the East Coast of Scotland between the Firth of Forth and the Orkneys. The A/C reconnaissance from Brest extended 200 miles to the Westward. Somewhat similar activity was noted prior to the attacks on Convoy HX 84 by SCHEER on 5th November. (D.D.I.C. 1859/25 to C. in C., H.F.)

Southampton

Details of damage by air raid 24/11. Lasted 3 hours. Many fires started. 2 Seamen killed, 3 injured. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2156/25 and 2158/25 to Admty.)

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

KENTMORE — (M/S Trawler) Mined and sunk in 080° East Gaze Vessel 2 miles at 1930/25. Mine probably acoustic. 2 killed, one missing Rest taken on board CONQUISTADOR (C. in C., Nore, 0732/26 to Admty.)

Milford Haven — Port closed (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0815/25 to Admty) Port open, subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1240/25)

Red Mines detonated as follows:-
2 by single LL in 180° No 4 Navigation Buoy, Milford Haven, 215° Great Castle Head low light 11.6 cables.
1 by towed skid in 031° Saddle Point Rock Fishguard 1.5 miles.
4 self detonated in position 170° Soldiers Rock, Milford Haven 1.5 miles (two miles) 182° Great Castle Head Light 5.1 cables 075° St. Ann's Head Light 1 mile.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1811/25 to Admty.)

Tyne — QZS 171 closed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0847/25 to Admty.)

ICARUS — Indicate position, course and speed. (C. in C., Nore, 0941/25 to ICARUS)

Thames Estuary — CAPRICORNUS reports detonating one mine in 229° Barry Deep Light Vessel one mile Ship shaken but not damaged. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1015/25 to C. in C., Nore.)

Summary of Explosions and Air Activity in Thames Estuary for night 24/25 (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1425/25 to C. in C., Nore.)

TEES HOPPER No 3 — Mined and sunk at 0953/25 in 54° 40' 18" N 1° 7' 9" W., Whole crew landed at Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1040/25 to Admty)

M.L. 111 — Mined and sunk at 0840 off Spurn Point, ½ mile SSE of Inner Binks Buoy.
10 survivors landed, all injured. 2 missing.
(Base Captain, Grimsby 1246/25 to Admty)

/Blyth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Blyth — Port open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1344/25 to P.O.I.C. Tyne.)

Off Tyne — KIPLING reports Mine exploded in 55° 8' 30" N., 1° 15' W., 30° on bow while ship steaming 30 knots in 30 fathoms water. No damage. (C. in C., Rosyth 1500/25 to Admty)

Plymouth — My 2254/10. After an interval of some days minelaying by enemy aircraft off Plymouth has recommenced and at least two mines were dropped in or near the searched channel about 1945 yesterday 24th Nov. One of these was detonated this morning by LL trawler in the third sweep over the spot. Another magnetic mine was detonated on 23/11 near South Winter Buoy in the Sound the existance of which was not known but which had probably been laid fifteen days previously and had been swept over daily.
No acoustic mines have detonated since 14/11 and it is thought that several still exist in the searched channel.
To minimise risk ships are only allowed to arrive and leave for limited periods immediately after the channel has been swept. At present this is carried out twice daily. Operations would be considerably facilitated if more LL sweeps could be made available.
(C. in C., W.A. 1642/25 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

D/F Transmission — Following transmission heard at 2348 and 2355/24 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1008/25)

Enemy Raider — Position 24° 44' N., 58° 31' W., at 1530/24 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1130/25)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CONQUISTADOR	(M/S Trawler) Sank 245° East Caze L.V. Wreck Buoy one mile, after collision with M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS (C. in C., Nore 0732/26 to Admty.)
CAPRICORNUS	Bow damaged in collision with CONQUISTADOR (C. in C., Nore, 0732/26 to Admty.)
PENRHYN	Your 2000/17. Rammed and sunk by FURIOUS at 1213/15/11 off Crosby Light Vessel, River Mersey. (FURIOUS 0915/25 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)
Derelict Ship	At 1600 sighted fore part of derelict Timber Ship in 55° 31' N., 11° 29' W., (CHEVREUIL 1620/25 to Admty)
ST. CYRUS	(Tug) Has propellor foul of wire. Tug HEADMAN standing by. (F.O. Humber 2120/25 to Admty.)
Nore Command Ships out of action	My 1546/23. Delete CATTISTOCK and KIPLING (C. in C., Nore, 0815/25)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.B.252- O.B.259	Order of sailing of escort groups. (C. in C., W.A., 1203/25)
F.S & F.N.	Cancel my 1945/24 (List of F.S. and F.N. Convoys) and substitute (details) (C. in C., Rosyth 1629/25 to Admty.)
F.N. 41	4 hours early outer Dowsing (EGRET 0002/25)
F.N. 43	Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C. in C., Nore 1024/25)
F.S. 43	Anchored near 54 D Buoy (C. in C., Nore 0745/25)
S.C. 12	Meet (C. in C., W.A. 1010/25 to HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HESPERUS) Move to(position) (LEITH 1300/25)
S.L. 55	CILICIA leaves patrol to R/V with Convoy S.L. 55 (position) at 0830/30/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 1050/25)
S.L. 54 B	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1240/25 to ESPERANCE BAY)
E.N. 32 W.N. 45	Proceed 1500/26/11, anchor off Methil sail thence as additional A/A escort to E.N. 32 sailing at about 2200/26. On arrival off Cape Wrath part company from E.N. 32 and patrol to eastward during remainder of night and as necessary to join W.N. 45 shortly after daylight. W.N. 45 is due Cape Wrath 2200/28 and Duncansbury Head 1 00/29. Anchor off Methil keep steam at immediate notice. (C. in C., Rosyth 1343/25 to FOWEY)
BENTE MARSK	Your 1319/22. Ready 1500/26 request instructions (N.C.S.O. Swansea 1731/25 to C. in C., W.A.)
DIRECTOR HOPESTAR	Separated from Convoy in gale. (WALKER 1029/25 to C. in C., W.A.)
H.X. 87	Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 2222/25, 2300/25 to HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HESPERUS) Noon position (ALAUNIA, 1401/25)
C.W. 18	Escort destroyers FERNIE, CLEVELAND, ICARUS 5 A/S and M/S trawlers, 5 balloon ships, 2 M.L's (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1322/25)

/E.N. 32.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd

E.N. 32

Escort PAYNTER, KING SOL, additional escort FOWEY. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1501/25)

Separated from Convoy in gale, following missed 24/11- DIRECTOR, HOPESTAR and whole of slow section of convoy (WALKER 1029/25)

H.X. 90

Route. Escort LACONIA, returns to Halifax and LUPIN. (D.T.D. 1139/25)

Non-British Ships Scapa

There have recently been cases of non-British vessels arriving at Scapa. Examples Dutch AMIGO arrived from Invergordon 17/10 and sailed 25/10. Norwegian Oiler JOHN D. PEDERSON arrived 11th/11 from Clyde. Request confirmation that when non-British vessels are ordered to Scapa it is first ensured that there is no objection from a security point of view. (A.C.O.S. 1150/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Submarine AJAX — Your 1652/21. If ratings are prepared to join de Gaulle they can be accepted for service in Free French Navy under conditions stated in your signal and should not be sent in FRANCONIA. (Hd of M. 1903/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French North Africa — Military intelligence re Weygand will almost certainly defend North Africa against any aggressor. etc. (Geenleaves, Tangier No 1131 T.H.I. 1812/25)

French Ships Scuttling Report — Your 1603/24. Admiral D'Harcourt definitely stated that all British warships inside 20 miles Lisbon from Morocco would be attacked, all escorts had orders to open fire if British ships attempted to interfere with their convoys. This information is absolutely reliable A.1. The Masters of French ships ESPIGUETTE informed French Manager of S.A.P.E.C. Lisbon that he and all other Masters of French Merchant Vessels had orders to scuttle their ships rather than let them fall into our hands. B.2. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1300/25 to Admty.)

Air Intelligence — Following information obtained from French intercepted messages. (1) Eighteen Curtis aircraft, two Lockheed, two Gen Martin, one Bloch, 120 or two Dewoitin were at Atar 14/11 possibly bound for Dakar. It appears that Dakar to Mediterranean Air Service is now running by trans Sahara route via Gao Aoulef Algiers and that use of route across Rio De Oro has been much decreased or abandoned.
Secret W/T call signs are likely to be adopted by French Commercial Aircraft as from December 1st. (C. in C., S.A. 2037N/25 to Admty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar

Departures 25/ 11 (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 0952/25 to Admty.)

Italian U-Boats at Casablanca

Report (A.2) received from Tangier that Italian S/M BRIN ready to leave 23/11 and that her camouflage painting has been removed. (D.D.I.C. 1821/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1821/25. Confirmed both Italian U-Boats still at Tangier tonight and no signs of activity (F.O.C.N.A. 2210/25 to Admty.)

Gibraltar

Situation at 1152/24, Martin bomber off South of Rock for twenty minutes. Driven off to East by slight A.A. Fire.
At 1444/24 Martin bomber in vicinity of Rock was not engaged by A.A. defences and flew away eastwards after thirty minutes.
Nothing to report 25th (Govr. Gib. 2100/25 to W.O.)

South Atlantic

HAWKINS
CUMBERLAND
HERMES
NEWCASTLE
ENTERPRISE
NORFOLK
FORMIDABLE
BERWICK

Dispositions to implement A.T. 1917/24 (D.O.D. (F) to Cs. in C., 0036/25) (See Operations Volume)

FURIOUS
DIDO
FORTUNE
FOXHOUND
RESOLUTION
JAGUAR
KELVIN

C. in C., S.A. 2253/18 and A.T. 1603/8. FORTUNE and FOXHOUND are to escort FURIOUS and DIDO on their departure for U.K. until 300 miles from Freetown, then to escort RESOLUTION to Gibraltar. JAGUAR and KELVIN to R.V. with FURIOUS and DIDI about latitude of Gibraltar and accompany them to U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 0046/25)

Operation Stripe

Request immediate information of arrival of FURIOUS at Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1355/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

DUNERA

Your 1204/20. Arrived 24/11. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0840/25 to Capt i/c Simonstown)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CHR. KNUDSEN CAPE RACE	My 0935/20 and 1106/21 Arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1125/25 to Admty.)
? Raider	Your 2245/24 (no trace) Do you think it possible any ship of any S. American Republic can have been in that area at that time. (C. in C., S.A. 1145/25 to B.N.A. Buenos Aires.) Your 1145/25, my 1140/15 reported Argentine naval squadron left Puerto Belgrano 15/11 for manoeuvres in S. Atlantic. Ministry of Marine asked if ship in question was Argentine man of war. I await reply. Report just received transport CHACO arrived and left Santa Cruz 22/11 (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1235/25 to C. in C., S.A.) My 1235/25 Ministry of Marine state no Argentine man of war was near Falklands (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1805/25 to C. in C., S.A.)
Convoy W.S. 4.B	Admty. 1917/24 Sail HAWKINS 27/11 to R/V with W.S. 4 B escorted by CUMBERLAND and DEVONSHIRE at dawn 4/12 (position) W.S.4.B routed as follows. (C. in C., S.A. 1255/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)
FURIOUS	Your 1355/25 Arrived 0900/25/11 (C. in C., S.A. 1345N/25 to Admty.)
RIDLEY	Your 1215B/24 RIDLEY was not torpedoed but gutted by fire due to burst oil fuel tank and abandoned. All saved. (C. in C., S.A. 1407N/25 to S.O. (I) Capetown)
BRITANNIC. KENT	Your 2043/24, KENT from Simonstown R/V with BRITANNIC Capetown searched channel 1500/25 and sailed for X. On arrival X 2/12 BRITANNIC will proceed independently to Liverpool and KENT to Freetown. E.T.A. outer end Freetown Channel 1330/4/12 (S.N.O. Simonstown 1530Z/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

/CARNARVON.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE	Request you will obtain permission for CARNARVON CASTLE to enter Rio de Janeiro for 24 hours 2/12. Re oil fuel etc., (R.A.S.A.D. 1537Z/25 to H.M.Ambassador, Rio de Janeiro)
A/S Vessels for Mediterranean	Your 1801/23. Pass. of vessels confirmed. Two in number expected to sail Capetown 30/11 remainder Durban about 5/12 (N.O.IC Simonstown, 1752/B/25 to Admty.)
HERMES	Your 1917/24 and 0036/25 HERMES leaving Freetown Area and Y Flight 814 Squadron at Wellington Aerodrome will have to be embarked. Proposals to replace Y Flight on shore. (C. in C., S.A. 1827/25 to Admty.)
EDINBURGH	Future arrangements (D.O.D. (F) 2200/25 to C. in C., S.A.)
ARTEMESIA	Cargo coal, grounded off Cape Sierra Leone 16/11 after discharging 150 tons, was re-floated 18/11, operation conducted by Naval Officers and 2 naval tugs. (C. in C. S.A. 2025N/25 to Admty.)
ITAPE (Brazilian)	see MONTE VIDEO (German Merchant Ships)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

OTUS — Experienced ½ knot easterly set between 39.30 N., and 40.00 N., Echoes from obstructions obtained in circle radius 4 miles with centre 39.30 N., 19.07 E., (V.A. Malta 1231/25 to TETRARCH, REGULUS)

HERO HEREWARD — 0500 zone - 1. (V.A. Malta, 0603/25 to C. in C., Med.)

211 Squadron — My 1930/24 (Operational summary of 211 Sqdn) Latter A/C reported missing from 211 Sqdn. forced landed at Corfu. All crew safe. (H.Q., R.A.F., Greece 0921/25 to H.Q., R.A.F. M.E.,)

Convoy M.W. 4. — Comprising BRECONSHIRE, CLAN MACAULAY, CLAN FERGUSON, MEMNON sailed 0700B/23/11 due seaward end Malta Channel (B) at 0400B/26/11) (R.A.Alexandria, 1035/25 to Admty.)

TRITON Operation D.S. — Request sail TRITON p.m./28/11 or as soon after as practicable to carry out operation D.S. in Adriatic (positions) (Capt (S) 1st S.F. 1609/25 to V,A.Malta)

Submarine Patrol — Preliminary patrol report; TRUANT and OTUS. (V.A.Malta, 1821/25 to C. in C., Med.)

PATRIA — My 1140/25 (re sabotage of PATRIA) Damage apparently caused by internal explosion. Ship capsized in about 15 minutes. Approx 80 refugees still unaccounted, loss crew and guard not yet known but believed only few. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 2130/25 to Admty.)

Italian Convoys — A/C which visited Bari reported 2 convoys of two large M/V's each in following positions at 1200B/25 (a) 041° 00' N., 018° 10' E., steering 080° (b) 041° 10' N., 018° 12' E. steering 300°. It appears convoys to Durazzo may proceed about 30 miles along coast to .SE of Bari before crossing Adriatic. (V.A.Malta, 2135/25 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Greek-Italian Operations

Corfu garrison landed 130 men with M.G.'s etc., near Buthogao cutting communications of enemy right flank. Italian High Command show much nervousness ordering bomber and fighter aircraft to repel what they clearly considered landing in strength

It is clear from reports of our own bombers today who found many transports unloading at Durazzo and Valona and heavy A.A. (? defence) that Italians are trying (? retrieve) situation by extensive reinforcements including Eighth Army Corps. It appears vital need is to impede this movement and Greek Staff emphasize necessity such action as all their efforts are being directed to finding and striking enemy before he can be strongly reinforced. (M.A. Athens, 0345/25, W.O.)

Air Report

Operational Summary No 168 up to 1200 hours 25/11.

1. Greece. 9 Blenheims attacked Durazzo hitting 1-10,000 ton ship and setting fire to another small ship other bombs burst on quayside near ships extremely accurate A.A. fire experienced 1 Blenheim flown by Squadron Commander forced landed Corfu crew safe 4 others landed at Larissa all damaged extent unknown remainder reached base Menidi 1 of them landing with undercarriage retracted weather 10/10 cloud and heavy rain.

2. Egypt.

3. Sudan, No naval items.

4. Kenya.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1201/25)

Air Report Greece

Operational Summary 12 Squadron. Further bombing results from aircraft 221 Squadron p.m. 24/11 show more bombs on quay and warehouses also among barges. (H.Q.,R.A.F. Greece, 1700/25 H.Q., R.A.F, M.E.-)

Air Report....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd

Air Report, Greece

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 25/11. All time G.M.T. 0550 to 1503 Sunderland 228 Squadron detailed to reconnoitre Ionian Sea north of latitude 37 and west of longitude 1910 for enemy Naval and Merchant Units. Nil report. 0727 to 1234 Glenn Martin 431 flight on photgraphic recco of Ari and Taranto. Bari Harbour only 1 M.V. 7000 tons seen. At sea 20 miles out 2 M.V's 10000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers on course 080° Taranto in port 2 battleships 7 cruisers 17 destroyers large number of flying boats 1130 to 1415 Glenn Martin 431 flight on photographic recco. Tripoli Harbour. Moored in harbour 4 destroyers 1 cruisers 7 naval auxiliaries 2 M.V's 10000 tons 3 smaller M/V's and 2 seaplanes. 1451 to 1520 enemy carried out recco over North Eastern part of Island. No naval or military items. (H.Q., Malta 1725/25, 1902/25, 2200/25)

"I" 125 25/11.
Information contained in my 'I' 124 Nov. 25 with reference to Bari considered unreliable. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1902/25)

East Indies

Guns at Diego Suarez

Your 1143/23 para 1. Confirm that calibre of guns at Diego Suarez aerodrome is 80 millimetres and number of these guns is 3. (C. in C., E.I., 07042/25 to S.O (I) Capetown)

?

D. of S.T. 2203/22 para 5. As no definite indication was given that this ship would be required to proceed from Capetown to Suez it was assumed the vessel would bunker en route. There are very few ships at my disposal capable of steaming this distance and this was the most suitable available at that time. (S.S.T.O. Bombay 07572/25 to C. in C., E.I.)

SHROPSHIRE

Your 1313/23 (re Administration of SHROPSHIRE by C. in C., S.A.) Concur (C. in C., E.I., 11062/25 to C. in C., S.A)

/Daily.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd

Daily Intelligence Summary No 166 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 25/11. 3 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escort to convoy B.S. 9 using advanced base Kamaran on remaining overnight. Harbour reconnoitred. No shipping changes no casualties all times G.M.T. (Air H.Q., Aden, 1747/25 to Air Min)

China

BENAVON
TEDDY

My 0801/15/11. Transfer BENAVON to list two. Add to list one Norwegian tanker TEDDY. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 1025/25 to China Station)

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE
to search
for Raider

My 1201/24. On arrival in vicinity of position search for survivors allowing for probable drift to W.S.W then carry out search for raider to S.E. returning to Trinidad along route A.A. Remain at sea to safe limit of your endurance. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1001/25 to DIOMEDE)

MALOJA
to search
for Raider

Disguised enemy raider attacked PORT HOBART 024° 44' N., 058° 21' W., 1530Z/24. Proceed to search for raider in area centre 029° N., 054° W., Leave to arrive Bermuda a.m./29/11. (C. in C., A. & W.I. 1211/25 to MALOJA)

WINDSOR CASTLE

Your 1127/17 and 1327/20. Now decided Gibraltarian Evacuees not to leave U.K. so WINDSOR CASTLE will not sail (D. of S.T. 1953/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

HAMILTON

Admty. 2041/11 (re manning of 7 destroyers) We will be glad to take over HAMILTON (C.N.S. Canada 1711/25)

Australia

AQUITANIA

Arrived Sydney 0425Z/24. (A.C.N.B. 0727Z/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KARNAK — Left Vigo 2230/24 (Consul Vigo 0039/25) (D.D.I.C. 0449/25)

BRAKE — Said to be ready for sea at any moment. (Consul Vigo, 0039/25)

GERMANIA — Sailed 25/8/39 bound Rotterdam Hamburg cargo 7000 tons European Blend Gasoline 7000 tons European Gasolene 70 Octane consigned Dutch American petroleum. (British Vice Consul Aruba 1127/25 to D.N.I.)

KLAUS SCHOKE — In ballast arrived here 1200/25 G.M.T. from Payal. Ostensible reason repairs. (N.C.S.O. Porte Delgada, 1140/25 to Admty)

My 1140/25. Repairs expected to take 3 or 4 days. If ship should not sail then understood will be interned. Will advise time limit when decided. (N.C.S.O. Ponte Delgada 1535/25 to Admty.)

MONTE VIDEO — Reported that 1st officer and 8 men of MONTE VIDEO (under embargo at Rio Grande do Sul) are sailing to Bahia in Brazilian ITAPE 25/11 (D.S. 447)

ARKADIA
LARISSA
CORDELIA — Sailed for Russia (Galati, 1151/25 to Admty)

SPEZIA — Left Barcelona believed bound for Valencia. (Barcelona THI 1238/25

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ALABAMA — Arrived Las Palmas en route to Puerto Cabello will proceed on arrival of tug. (S.O. (I) Kingston Jamaica 2101/25 to Admty)

RECCA — 24/11 painted funnel and part of ventilator grey. Flag and name obliterated (S.O. (I) Kingston Jamaica 2340/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.11.1940
Monday

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

PATRIA

(PATRIA 11,885 tons) sabotaged this morning at 0920 and capsized to starboard at breakwater in about 5 fathoms of water. Rescue work proceeding. (N.O.I.C. Haifa to Admty. 1140/25)

CROIX

(French M/V 9975 tons) My 1916/24. Probably CROIX see F.O.C.N.A. 2250/29/10. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1145/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

KATIOLA

Reported due Rio de Janeiro early this week from Casablanca. If intercepted send her to Freetown unless C. in C., S.A. directs otherwise. (R.A.S.A.D. 13512/25 to CARNARVON CASTLE)

VENDEMIAIRE
EASTERSWORD
CHARLES L.D.
AVANT GARDE

Following information from Navy Dept: From Martinique. French tanker VENDEMIAIRE sails from Martinique 24/11 with cargo of crude oil for Casablanca. This oil will be refined in France, and came originally from Mexico before armistice. On 20/11 American Ship EASTERN SWORD Martinique with a general cargo including 7500 bags of flour and French ship CHARLES L.D. left for Casablanca with 100 passengers and sugar cargo from Saint Pierre. On 20/11 Trawler AVANT GARDE sailed for Casablanca. (N.A. Washington, 1242/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

TEMPLE INN
Attacked

British, 5218 tons. SSSS, 56.15 N., 8.40 W being attacked by submarine. (TEMPLE INN, 1145/25 F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1144/25) Following from TEMPLE INN via Port Patrick Ship in ballast, unable to manoeuvre in this weather, submarine last seen steering to 020 on surface at high speed. (F.O.I.C Greenock 1227/25) Your 1202/26. Main engine now normal. Ship hove to. Tug not required. Some danger of drifting Hebrides if weather continues. Will report situation later. (TEMPLE INNE 1250/26)

BRUSE
(Torpedoed 23/11)

Have lost touch with BRUSE. Wind W.S.W. force 7, visibility 1 mile. Am hove to. (BLUEBELL, to C. in C., W.A. 1055/25)

BRADFYNE
BRUSE
BUSSUM

LISBETH (Norwegian) in convoy S.C. 11 reports BRADFYNE (British) torpedoed 2300/22, BRUSE (Norwegian) torpedoed 0200/23, motor vessel name unknown torpedoed 0700/23 and BUSSUM (Dutch) torpedoed 2000/23. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1310/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

BUSSUM

OTTAWA arrived with 29 survivors from BUSSUM, (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1350/25)

LIESE MAERSK

THAMES (tug) arrived with 7 survivors from LIESE MAERSK (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1402/25 to Admty.) Sunk (torpedoed 0615/23 D.S. 448)

ANTEN
(Torpedoed 23/11)

S.O.S. ANTEN sinking rapidly 13 men still aboard one raft only. Position at 1500 G.M.T./23 56.57 N., 18.13 W., drifting due east 0533/25. (T.O.R. Valentia Radio 0644/25)

ANTEN reported at 0532 sinking rapidly 13 men still aboard. One raft only. (C. in C. W.A., 0657/25 to SANDWICH)

ANTEN heavy list increasing 13 men aboard one raft only position about 57.15 N., 17.40 W., (Valentia Radio 1113/25)

Following has been read. S.O.S. ANTEN heavy list increasing position about 57.15 N., 17.40 W., can only listen MTN broadcast receiver on 36 metres. (T.O.R. 1214/25)

/Very poor.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ANTEN (Torpedoed 23/11) Contd.

Very poor visibility sea rough, have located ANTEN appears same as yesterday. May not be able to get men off owing to weather conditions and drift of ship. 56° 57' N., 17° 40' W., (SANDWICH 1130Z/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

Position of ANTEN at 1430/25 57° 00' N., 17° 3-' W., Drifting 070° 1.5 to 2 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2000/25 to TENACITY)

Submarines Reported

1246

Proceed forthwith independently to attack submarine reported by TEMPLE INN 56.15 N., 08.40 W., at 1246 (C. in C., W.A. 1321/25 to MALCOLM)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 may enter Gironde today or tonight.
1 was some 275 miles W. by N. of Achill Head at 2046/24, probably moving northwards.
1 was probably in area around 60 miles of Rockall.
1 more may be in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
German- 1 in Sierra Leone area or farther N.
1 was about 245 miles W. of Achill Head at 1956/24 and may be following S.L. 54.
1 in area 55° to 56° N., 12° to 14° W.
1 in area 55° to 56° N., 16° to 19° W.
1 in area 56° to 57° N., about 20° W.
1 probably in area 57° to 58° N., 15° to 17° W.
1 probably in area 58° to 60° N. and W. of 20° W.,
1 N., of 55° N., and E of 10° W.,
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1253/25)

Submarines Attacked

1713/24

Your 1713/24 (attack on firm contact) Asking for further information (C. in C., W.A. to MALCOLM 1201/25)
Your 1201/25. Lookout reports conning tower and periscope sighted for very short time. Initial contact slight openeing, extent of target 6 to 12 degrees. No plot indication of submarine movements after first quarter of hour. Further additional weaker echo 200 yards 180°. Contact. Considers possible submarine future guidance. (MALCOLM, 1355/12 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26/11/1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer Operations

VOLUNTEER and BERKELEY last night patrolled to the east of the Isle of Wight, south of the convoy route.

Captain D.5. with 5 destroyers last night swept to a position west of Ushant. One aircraft also carried out a patrol until 0530 today. No reports of the enemy were received.

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled today. No naval damage or casualties occurred.

British Air Activity

Attacks were made last night on Ship building yards, naval bases and dockyards at Kiel, Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N.1.

Convoy F.N. 1. was attacked between 1047 and 1255 today at the mouth of the Thames. No damage is reported.

Convoy F.N.45

Convoy F.N. 45 was attacked in the Thames Approaches between 1243 and 1430. No damage was caused though TYNE BANK had one very near miss.

LANDLA

A/P vessel LANDLA was attacked this morning off Standfast Point (Portsmouth area) but was undamaged.

MEDOC Sunk

A/P trawler MEDOC was sunk by a torpedo from an aircraft in the Western Approaches this evening.

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operation S.N. 11.

R.A.M.L. reported this operation (laying of minefield in Denmark Straits) completed at 1605 today.

SS WALENBURGH

SS WALENBURGH (Dutch 496 tons) detonated a mine today off the Tees. She was damaged and was taken in tow for Middlesborough.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven and Spurn Point.

Falmouth and Plymouth were closed this evening.

Mediterranean

Corfu Bombed

The Greeks report that Corfu was persistantly and indiscriminately bombed pm/25 and a.m/26.

Large Ship Hit

3 Blenheims returning from bombing Valona today obtained 2 hits on a large ship, believed to be a warship.

Leros Bombed

Port Lago on Leros Island was bombed by 15 Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS, which started fires in the Dockyard area.

Tripoli Bombed

Tripoli was attacked by 8 Swordfish from EAGLE this morning, and one ship alongside Spanish Quay was probably hit.

Malta Convoy

Convoy M.W. 4. arrived at Malta after being unsuccessfully attacked by 3 torpedo aircraft.

Crete

No 50 Command landed at Suda Bay today from WARSPITE, VALIANT and YORK.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

China

Boundary Altered

From CCC1/26, the boundary between China and the East Indies Stations has been altered to the boundary between India nd Burma, 20° N., 92° E., due S to 13° S., then due East as hitherto.

New Zealand

SS RANGITANE reports being attacked at 1515 today about 300 miles E.N.E. of North Island, New Zealand. ACHILLES at littleton is proceeding to search, and air search is being carried out.

MOST SECRET.

Tuesday.
26.11.40.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

FORMIDABLE.

Ammunition to be embarked for Freetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1121/26).

Admiralty's 1121/26. Proposed programme. 28/11 complete ammunitioning. Sail for Belfast. 30/11 proceed up Belfast on mid-day tide.
(FORMIDABLE 2253/26 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Command of Force 'K' and Force 'M'. Proposed lapse of F.O.C.S.1.

Admiralty telegram 1917/24. It has been approved for Rear Admiral W.F. Wake-Walker to hoist his Flag temporarily in FORMIDABLE as F.O.C. Force 'K'. In consequence of this it is proposed that:-

A. Rear Admiral J.H.D. Cunningham in NEPTUNE be appointed F.O.C. Force 'M' temporarily.

B. Appointment of C.S.1. should lapse temporarily and ships of the 1st C.S. come under C.S.18.

C. 1st C.S. be reconstituted under its own Admiral when cruiser situation becomes easier.

Do you concur.
(1st Lord 1302/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1302/26 is not quite clear but as far as administration of ship's of 1st C.S. still at home is concerned it would be preferable to attach them temporarily to F.O.C. 10th C.S. as F.O.C. 18th C.S. is at present abroad. I do not understand why R.A. Wake-Walker should not hoist his flag in NORFOLK which belongs to 1st C.S. and will be in company with FORMIDABLE.
(C.in C. H.F. 1917/26 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. — At 1130/26. (D.C. 1140/26).
At 2330/26. (D.C. 2351/26).

Skalle Fiord, Faroes. — My 760/HF. 801255, para.3, of 10/5/40 and A.L. M.017661/40 of 7/9/40. Request Indicator Nets be laid as soon as possible and some A/A protection provided. Reasons. (C.in C. H.F. 1527/26 to Adty).

Movements.

HONEYSUCKLE. — Have lost contact with S.L.54. Water in oil fuel. Am proceeding Londonderry. E.T.A. 1330 (HONEYSUCKLE 0509/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Nore Command. — Night dispositions. 26/27. (C.in C. Nore 0800/26 and 1200/26).

HESPERUS. — Expect arrive at Convoy HX.87 at 1530. (HESPR US 0945/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

SANDWICH. — My position 56° 40'N., 11°35'W westbound. (SANDWICH 1000.Z./26 to C.in C. W.A.)

CAIRO. — What is my position. (CAIRO 1010/26 to Admiralty).

VIMY. — If unable join LETITIA by 1400 today, return to Scapa . (C.in C. H.F.1013/26 to VIMY).

ARETHUSA. — Intend sail her 1430 today. E.T.A. 0615/27. Request Hoxa Gate 0700, and Fighter protection from 1445 till dark. Speed of advance 22 knots. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1047/26 to C.in C. H.F.) (H.Q.F.C. 1520/26 to H.Q. 13 Group).

Dover. — Patrols for Night 26/27. (V.A.Dover 1122/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

KIPLING. Arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0930 or 1630. Precautions. (C.in C. W.A. 1229/26 to KIPLING) My 0603/26. KIPLING estimated in 180° The Lizard 5 miles at 0600/27. She has been diverted to Dartmouth. (C.in C. W.A. 1741/26 and 2831/26 to H.Q.F.C.). Plymouth is closed. Proceed Dartmouth (C.in C. W.A. 2055/26 to KIPLING).

NIGERIA
KENYA. C.in C. H.F. 1610/25. Concur. NIGERIA should be sailed for Scapa when trials completed and KENYA should replace her at Plymouth. (V.C.N.S. 1230/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Portsmouth. Movements for Night. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/26 and 1733/26).

Orkneys. Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1521/26). Trawler lines tonight. (F.O.C.O.S. 1604/26).

LONDONDERRY. Your 1440. My position at 1600 in 52° 21'N., 2° E. (LONDONDERRY 1545/26 to C.in C. Nore).

Nore and
Harwich. Movements Summary. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1631/26 to SHEARWATER).

FOLKESTONE. My position 56° 4'N., 11° W., course West, speed 9 knots. (FOLKESTONE 1700/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

D.5.

As no further information has been received, and to increase chance of interception, proceed towards Ushant. Return Plymouth by 0930/26.
(C.in C. W.A. 0117/26 to D.5.)

My 1305/25.
APOLLONIA was attacked by 2 destroyers.

2. D.5. reports that he received my 0031/25 when he was in about 04° 30'W and immediately proceeded to investigate. He did not see the gun-flashes referred to.

3. At 0200/25, near the Lizard, he spoke S.S. FERNAND bound Plymouth to Bristol Channel.

He subsequently proceeded at best speed to vicinity of Ushant, which was reached at 0620/25. Nothing was sighted, and force reached Plymouth at 0930.

4. Operations night 25/26.
D.5. with JAVELIN, JACKAL, JERSEY, JUPITER and KASHMIR was on a patrol line on 49° 50'N., from 4 W to 5 W. until about 0200/26.

5. Force then swept to a position W. of Ushant and arrived at Plymouth at 1030/26.

One aircraft fitted with A.S.V. carried out a patrol until 0530/26 between 3° W and 7° W in approximately 49° 30' North.

No reports of the enemy were received.
(C.in C. W.A. 1915/26 to Adty.)

RONA Patrol
ST. KILDA Patrol.

Cancelled today, owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth. 0952/26).

PEGASUS.

It is under consideration to use PEGASUS for an operation. Commander Naval Air Division will visit you a.m. tomorrow to explain the project. Request you will then issue the necessary operation orders.
(D.N.A.D. 1312/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(Contd.)

Patrol J.C. West.

2 Destroyers carrying out tonight. (Capt: S.5. 1820/26 to UNIQUE).

HASLEMERE.

(British 715 tons) Reports damaged at 1550/26 by near miss from a bursting shell in Convoy C.W.18. Damage slight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1830/26 to Adty).

Dover Shelled.

Enemy Coastal batteries fired as follows today.
0350. Three rounds one of which fell in town and two in the sea.

0904 to 0957. Nine rounds which fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Seige battery.

1305 Four rounds one of which fell in the harbour and remainder to seaward.

Some damage to house property, no casualties.
(V.A.Dover 1841/26 to Adty).

Submarines.

Clyde Sanctuary.

Request extension of bombing Restrictions from 1800/27 till 0800/30. (Capt: S.7 0955/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/27. (V.A.S. 1623/26, 1759/26 and 2249/26).

UNIQUE.

S.5 requested to instruct UNIQUE to R/V with Trawler 90° 4 miles from Start Point at 0900/27 and proceed to Dartmouth. (C.in C. W.A. 2111/26 to S.5).

British Air Activity.

Falmouth.

Your A.419/25/11. Temporary reduction to fulfil C.in C. W.A's 1142/24 can be accepted. Request information when V.L.A. Balloons can be made available. (D.of L.D. 1058/26 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols. S.A.2 and S.A.3 cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1113/26 to Adty). S.A.I.E. and S.A.I.A. cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1234/26 to Adty).

Air Escorts. For 27/11. (C.in C. Rosyth. 1800/26.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy, F.N.1. Enemy aircraft bombing. My position 51° 32'N., 1° 5'E. (Rosyth W/T 1047/26). My 1047. Two bombs. No hits. (WESTMINSTER 1048/26) Fighter A/C has been sent (Nore W/T 1103/26).

A/C bombing my position 51° 44'N., 1° 25'E. (WESTMINSTER 1241/26). Fighter A/C sent. (C.in C. Nore 1250/26 to VALOROUS).

A/C attacking convoy. My position 51° 47 N., 1° 30'E. (WESTMINSTER 1255 /26).

S.S. BIFROST Sunk 22/11. (Swedish 1781 tons) Sunk by enemy aircraft attack in Alfred Dock, Liverpool 22/11 (D.O.R.)

Convoy ARENA (F.N.45) One A/C shadowing. My position 51° 46' N., 1° 29'E., course 220, speed 10 knots. (VERSATILE 1136/26) A/C bombing. My position 51° 42'N., 1° 22' E. (VALOROUS 1243/26) No hits (VALOROUS 1245/26). A/C attacking. (VERSATILE 1248/26). Fighter A/C sent. (C.in C. Nore 1254/26). Attack by 4 Messerschmitt 109's. 3 bombs. No damage. Planes still near. (VERSATILE 1325/16 to C.in C. Nore). Convoy being attacked in 51° 35'N., 1° 10'E. (VALOROUS 1410/26). Fighter being sent. (C.in C. Nor 1415/26 to VALOROUS) Convoy being attacked by aircraft in 51° 32'N., 1° 6' E. (VERSATILE 1416/26). My 1410 2 M.E.109's. No bombs. No hits. VALOROUS 1423/26). Attack by 2 M.E.109's Very near miss under TYNE BANK. No damage. (VERSATILE 1430/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy AGENT. — One aircraft shadowing. My position 51° 40'N., 1° 18'E. (VIVIEN 1140/26).

Thames Estuary. — Night 25/26. Orange Flares or Fireballs seen. Details. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1245/26 to C.in C. Nore).

LANOLA. — (A/P Vessel). Attacked by Dornier at 1040 in 110 Standfast Point 5 miles. No damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2124/26 to Adty).

MEDOC. — (A/P Trawler) Sunk at 1810/26 by Torpedo from A/C. Combined Polish and British crew. 48 survivors picked up. About 39 probably lost. (C.in C. W.A. 0016/27 to Adty).

Mining.

Little Sole Bank. — My 1631/30/10. Decided to lay minefields near Little Sole Bank to trap U/Boats. Proposed positions of first two operations. ADVENTURE is available. C.in C. W.A. requested to allocate short Title and issue necessary orders for conduct. (V.C.N.S. 1013/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

S.S. WALENBURGH. — WALENBURGH (Dutch 496 tons) detonated one Mine, presumed acoustic, in 54° 40' 9" N., 1° 7' 34" W. Not in damger of sinking and proceeding in tow to Middlesborough. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1520/26 to Adty).

Harwich. Clearance Sweep. — Intend to sail 6 Fleetsweepers S.O. HARRIER at 0730 tomorrow Wednesday to clear area extending from centre line of 148 Q.Z.S. for 1.5 miles to the eastward between 51° 27.5'N., 01° 42'E and 52° 02'N 01° 46.5' E. in continuation of area cleared 18/11/40. Request fighter protection from 0800 to 1500. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1559/26 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

S.N.11. Completed. Position. (R.A.M.L. 1605/16).

Milford Haven. One Ground Mine self-detonated in 054° St, Ann's Head 10.4 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1814/26 to Adty)

Spurn Point. At 1336/26 one pair of LL. Trawlers exploded a Mine in Swept Channel 253° Spurn Point Lighthouse 12½ cables. Details. (F.O. Humber 1820/26 to Adty).

Falmouth. Port closed owing to Mines. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1944/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

Plymouth. Closed, owing to Mines. (C.in C. W.A. 2041/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats. Indication of presence of E/Boats East of St. Catherines. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0226/26 to CHESTERFIELD.)

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ELIZABETH. (Sailing Vessel) Disabled in 55° 38'N. (? Longitude) and requires assistance. (VERDUN 0200/26 to C.in C. Rosyth).

BONAVENTURE. Your 1905/25. 3 weeks refit approved. Am most anxious that internal D/G should be completed during this time. (C.in C. H.F. 0917/26 to A.S. Rosyth).

VENDSYSSEL. (Naval Control Service M/V) In collision with H.M. Tug FOREMOST 18 at 1330/26 in Methil Roads. Damage to port side makes her unseaworthy. Request A.S.Rosyth arrange survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1540/26 to Adty).

CLERMISTON. Damaged by collision in Convoy E.N.31. Temporary repairs necessary before can proceed. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1645/26 to Adty).

Unknown Ship. ST. OLAVES proceeded to Westray at 1145 today to search for ship reported in distress and has now returned. Nothing Seen. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1730/26 to Adty).

AYRSHIRE. (A/S Trawler). Ran aground at entrance to Campbeltown at 1920. Re-floated at 2130. Dome lost and oscillator damaged. Have instructed her to return to Belfast. (O.I.C. Cambeltown 2315/26 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.	Shipping.
O.9.46.	Sailing telegram. (C.in C. W.A. 0150/26 and 0210/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)
W.N.44.	Am in company with 2 out of 3 ships of W.N.44 . E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 1430. (HASTINGS, 0915/26).
W.N.44(O).	SOUTHERN SPRAY escort FRIGIA sheltering in Ody Bay 25/11. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1210/26).
H.X.89.	Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1445/26 and 2301/26 to WANDERER, WARWICK, PERIWINKLE, CAMPANULA, CLEMATIS, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS). 10 hours late. (COMORIN. 2100/26).
O.B.249.	P, C and S. In company PERIWINKLE and 13 ships of O.B.No.249. (WANDERER, 1600/26)
S.C.12.	My 1300/25 S.C.12 e.t.s. R/V. 0800Z/27/11 (LEITH 1700/26 to C.in C. W.A.) Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to WITHERINGTON VERITY, Etc. 2353/26).
H.X.87.	Met, MALLOW and ANEMONE only in company. Sighted. H.X.88 (position) (HAVELOCK 2001/26).
P.C.74's Convoy.	Falmouth is closed. Take your convoy to Milford Haven. (C.in C. W.A. 2049/26 to P.C.74).
O.B.248. S.C.12.	Leave O.B.248 in time to meet S.C.12 before dark 27/11 (C.in C. W.A. 2137/26 to WITHERINGTON, VERITY FOLKSTONE, CAMELIA, ARBUTUS).
CAPETOWN CASTLE PASTEUR.	Intend sailing CAPETOWN CASTLE for Halifax escorted by HIGHLANDER 0900/27 to R/V with PASTEUR escorted by GARLAND. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0952/26). Your 1211/24. For GARLAND read SAGUENAY. (D.12 1630/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. — Adty. 1912/21. Officers 12, O.R's 200. Maximum numbers already carried on passage 31 officers and 243 O.R's which involved discomfort. Small quantity of stores can be carried on upper deck as no hold space available since fitting of distilling plant. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 1025/26).

BENTE MARSK. — Your 1731/25. Sail her unescorted to arrive Dartmouth at Daylight. (C.in C. W.A. 1343/26 to N.C.S.O. Swansea).

H.X.93. — Route. Escort EGRET. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 0936/26).

H.X.91. — Sailing telegram. Escort LUPIN H.X. ASCANIA, S.H.X. HUSKY, ELK. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1018/26).

H.X.85. — N.C.S.O. Sub Office Greenock reports following ships ex H.X.85 bound for Bristol Channel report having been overtaken 60 miles south of Clyde at 0900/25 by small sloop believed No.126 and ordered into Clyde. EMPIRE TIGER NURTURETON BEAVERDALE and HOPERIDGE 1620/26/11 ends. The reason for this and the sloop referred to are unknown here. Request permission to sail ships for original destinctions forth with.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1728/26 to C.in C. W.A.)
Your 1728/26. Approved to sail ships for original destinations.
(C.in C. W.A. 2357/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

COMMANDANT DELAGE.

Gibraltar 1140/26. COMMANDANT DELAGE passed West to East escorting EL KANTARA (S.O.(I) Gib: 1227/26 to Adty).

VICTORIA.

My 1812/16. French Authorities now state instructions have been given for British merchant seamen returning in VICTORIA to be embarked without delay. (H. of M. 1904/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

VILLE DU HAVRE.

French ship VILLE DU HAVRE left Dakar about 17/11 broke down in position 000° 10' N., 019° 30' W. on 26/11 is being joined by French Tug A.M.26/11 presumably to tow to Dakar. Ship can be intercepted and brought in by DRAGON but this may delay DRAGON sailing with HERMES and Force L in accordance with your 1917/24/11. May I be informed if this ship considered of any value and is required. (C.in C. S.A. 1339N/26 to Adty).

DRAGON Force 'L'.

Your 1917/24 and 0036/25. DRAGON will accompany HERMES to form Force L for present. As long as DELHI is required in French Cameroons there will after this be no ship or force available in Freetown area to keep any check on French movements to Ivory Coast or Dahomey or other traffic to and from Dakar to southwards. If another cruiser could be made available for Force L on Freetown it would be of great assistance.
(C.in C. S.A. 1721/26 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

ARGUS.

Escorted by RAMILLIES to be sailed for Clyde (date) on completion of enquiry ordered in 1915/20. ECLIPSE if available to be sailed as additional escort. (D.O.D.(H) 2109/26 to F.O.C.N.A)

German Ships at Vigo.

Re indications of early move see German Merchant Ships.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

36.11.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation "Stripe".

Your 1355/25. Stripa left Freetown for Takoradi, 2345/25.
(C.in C. S.A. 0959/26 to Admty).

Warship Sighted off Falkland Islands.

My 1446Z/24 (report of coast watcher of vessels N of Pebble Is.) Have definitely established vessel seen was not warship or armed merchant vessel.
(N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 1252Z/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

Willingdon Mission Escort.

Report received by Foreign Office from Bristol Ambassador, Buenos Aires, states Willingdon Mission schedule, including departure by sea from Santos 27/11, has been published in press, and assumes naval arrangements have been made in view of raider report. Report action taken observing that safety of mission is important.
(N.A. to A.C.N.S.(F), 1324/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Mission leaves Santos 27/11 for Buenos Aires. Close Santos with view to providing escort until relief by ENTERPRISE. QUEEN OF BERMUDA report position to R.A.S.A.D. N.A. Rio de Janeiro inform all concerned name of ship time of departure and route.
(R.A.S.A.D.1710Z/26 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA)

Your 1710Z/26 Willingdon Mission on board AVILA STAR sailing from Santos p.m. 27/11. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro. 1905/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Your 1324/26 CARNARVON CASTLE has been covering Rio de Janeiro area. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will afford cover to mission on passage to Plate and later escort until relieved by ENTERPRISE 28/11.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2106Z/26 to Admty).

RESOLUTION.

Admiralty 1227/19. Particulars of ammunition on board. (C.in C. S.A. 1345N/26 to Admiralty).

OLWEN.
LUCIGEN.

Your 1246/22. Oiler OLWEN sailed for Freetown 27/11. E.T.A. 2/12 has on board 4000 tons oil fuel. Oiler LUCIGEN completed to 7000 tons.
(Dir. of Nigerian Marine Lagos 1530/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Situation in French West Africa. — Appreciation. (G.O.C. West Africa 2200/26).

Shrapnel Force. — State of. (Commander Sierra Leone Area 1635/26).

W.S.5A. — A.T.2211/15 and A.T.1917/24. Escort arrangements for convoy WS 5A (11 knots) leaving U.K. (date) and WS 5B (15 knots) leaving U.K. (date). WS 5A (a) U.K. to Freetown. To be communicated later. DORSETSHIRE will be required to join convoy near Azores. (b) Freetown to Durban. DORSETSHIRE and HAWKINS. (c) Durban to Aden. SHROPSHIRE and SOUTHAMPTON. WS 5B U.K. to Aden. RAMILLIES. Red Sea Escort to be provided by Red Sea Force. Other movements. (a) DEVONSHIRE is to be sailed for U.K. after escorting WS 4B to Durban. (b) CORNWALL is to refit at Simonstown after escorting WS 4A to Aden. C.in C. to issue the necessary instructions to ships concerned. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2219/26 to C.in C. S.A. C.in C. E.I., C.in C. H.F. amended 2111/27).

Mediterranean.

Submarines diving at night. — My 2017/23 (re Submarines to dive for as much of the night as possible when in patrol area). Cancel last sentence. Submarines are to use their own discretion bearing possibility in mind. (Capt: (S) 1, 0927/26 to 1st S/M Flotilla.)

Suggested Attacks. — Your 1215/18. Suggest you also consider, with A.C.C. Med. attacks on following targets to shake morale of Sicily. (details) (D.N.A.D. 1029/26 to V.A. Malta) (See Med. VII.).

Taranto Reconnaissance. — H.Q. Malta 1725/25. Were harbour and docks at Taranto completely covered? Which of damaged battleships has been removed? (D.D.I.C. 1136/26 to V.A.Malta)

French Fleet, Alexandria. — Your 2349/20. Using fact we are paying wages as lever to reduce personnel. Have stated in future will pay only a sum representing amount for ⅓ of original complement.(C.in C. Med, 1601/24 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Corfu Bombed.

Greeks report Corfu Island has been bombed persistently and indescriminately p.m. 25/11 and a.m. 26/11. (Naval Attache, Athens, 1219/26 to C.in C. Med).

PATRIA. Sabotage.

N.O.I.C. Haifa 1140/25 and 2130/25 regarding Sabotage in PATRIA. Is there any action you wish me to take. (P.S.T.O. Port Said 1855/26 to Adty.)

MARIT MAERSK.

Your 1617/19 to H.M. Minister, Athens, and Adty. 1733/16. Greek Government intend to requisition MARIT MAERSK and use it for themselves. (N.A.Athens, 1200/26 to C.in C. Med.)

Port Largo Bombed.

Following operations carried out today 26/11.

2. About 0500 Porto Largo on Leros Island attacked by 15 Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS with bombs. Difficulty experienced seeing targets but fires started in dockyard area and other places. A ship thought to be a warship attacked by two aircraft result unobserved. One Swordfish failed to return.

Tripoli Bombed.

3. At 0620 Tripoli attacked by eight Swordfish from EAGLE. One shipalongside Spanish quay probably hit by three 500 pound bombs. Remainder of stick landed on quay. Major fire started visible from EAGLE 80 miles away and still burning nearly an hour later. All aircraft returned undamaged.

M.W.4.

4. Convoy M.W.4 arrived safely at Malta. It was unsuccessfully attacked by three torpedo aircraft in position 36° 15 N., 24° 50 E.

Suda Bay Landing.

5. Number 50 command landed at Suda Bay from WARSPITE, VALIANT and YORK. (C.in C. Med. 1307/26).

Air Reconnaissance.

Results of Air Rc. 26/11.

Taranto. Three Battleships one damaged and surrounded by small craft and two Destroyers alongside torpedo nets around it apparently Littorio Class. Two other Battleships both beached. Outer Harbour. 4 Cruiser 5 Destroyers Northern end of harbour. Inner Harbour 2 Cruisers and several small M/V's from

/200 .....

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Reconnaissance.

200 to 500 tons also 48 Seaplanes. 5 Destroyers and 4 M/V's of 5000 tons. Palmermo. Two Cruisers and 14 large M/V's. Messina. 3 Destroyers 5SM's 8 Balloons at 1500 feet across harbour. Convoy of two M/V's of 10,000 tons escorted by 3 Cruisers and 3 Destroyers in 042° 30'N., 015° 30'E course 330° 15 knots sighted at 1335-Z. Calabrian Coast. Ionian Sea nil.
(V.A. Malta 1645/26 Med.Fleet.)

Air Report.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 26/11. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. Med. 1720/26 to Air Min.)

Big Ships hit.

X.4411. Squadron maintained patrols over Greek front lines 25/11 no interceptions. 26/11. No.84 Squadron aircraft 3 of which bombed VALANAT 2-500 pound bombs seen to hit big ship believed probably warship. 1 aircraft bombed TEPELENE.
(B.A.F. Greece 1920/26).

German Troops Trieste.

Reports of various reliability received from Split that German troops were being transported from Trieste to San Hobo Di Medua, transports navigating inside Yugo Slavian waters. Subsequent report (B.2) states no such transports have left Trieste up to midnight 25/11. Yugo-Slav General Staff have no knowledge of presence of German troops at Trieste but have informed me departure from Trieste on 21/11 of S.S.VULCANIA and one further ship stated to be about 24,000.
(N.A. Belgrade 2005/26 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

56th Sub-Division.

C.in C. Med. 1442/23. (KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, KINGSTON to form 56th Sub-Division) concur.
(C.in C. E.I. 0528Z/26 to Adty).

ANNISTON CITY.

C.in C. E.I. 1358/25 arrived Bahrein, has cargo described and being detained.
(S.N.O. P.G. 0741Z/26 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.11.40. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

WOOLWICH. Owing to boiler defect e.t.a. at R/V 0900Z/27. (WOOLWICH, 1920Z/26 to GRIMSBY)

WESTRALIA. To leave eastern end of patrol line to arrive Colombo p.m./3/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 1248Z/26 amended 0758/28).

Air Report. Up to 1200 hours 26/11.
25/11. 1 Blenheim attacked buildings and jetty Marsa Taclai. No hits.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East 1207/26 to Air Min.)

China.

Far East Conference. My 0201Z/23. Dutch Staff Officers have arrived at Singapore and discussions commence 26/11.
(C.in C. China 0239Z/26 to Admiralty).

America and West Indies.

Submarine O.15. Your 1121/19. (Retention of Submarine O.15 at Bermuda for training A/S Vessels) In view of heavy A/S commitments at home regret this cannot be approved.
(D.O.D.(H) 1153/26 to C.in C. A. & W.I.)

Navicerts. Your 1001/21. The extension of the Navicerts System to the French West Indies is at present under consideration.
(Hd. of M. 1325/28 to C.in C. A & W.I.

PASTEUR. CAPETOWN CASTLE. Admiralty 2325/23 PASTEUR and CAPETOWN CASTLE will leave Clyde and Liverpool respectively (date) for Halifax contents being as follows,(details).
(D. of S.T. 1717/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

5th Town Flotilla. Following U.S. destroyers commissioned 26/11 November as fifth TOWN FLOTILLA. READING, ROMSEY, RIPLEY, ROCKINGHAM. Long endurance. None fitted as leader. ROCKINGHAM Senior Officer. Remaining 6 ships manned by R.C.N. C. & M. NEWPORT, NEWMARKET, NEWARK, RICHMOND, SALISBURY, WELLS. Short endurance. All 10 ships completed W/T modernisation and fitted with asdics. SALISBURY, RICHMOND and WELLS have director firings.
(F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1717/26.)

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Norwegian Shipping.

Your 1536/19. The Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission in London have now addressed the following message to their representative in New York. Begins. Ministry inform us NORTRASHIP New York issuing declaration about not leaving Halifax before certain measures adhered to inclusive manning according regulation Ministry very concerned and recommend we agree these circulars should be recalled. Ends.
(D.T.D. 1806/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

PENNLAND.

C.in C. South Atlantic's 1203/24 propose that PENNLAND should be used to return Military guard of 4 officers and 105 men from Jamaica to Freetown as they are needed for Garrison. PENNLAND is however, urgently required for inclusion in troop convoy sailing United Kingdom for Middle East late December. Request report whether alternative means for returning personnel to Freetown would be available shortly after arrival of PENNLAND.
(D. of S.T. 2034/26 to C.in C. A & W.I.)

Australia and New Zealand.

RANGITANE.

RANGITANE reports being attacked in 036 degrees 58 min. South 175 degrees 22 min. West at 1515/26/11. ACHILLES at Lyttleton proceeding to search.
MONOWAI returning to Suva expected time of arrival 1800/28/11. Air Search being carried out.
(NEW ZEALAND Naval Board. 1730/26 to Ady)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1940.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KLAUS SCHOKE

Your 1535/25. Why is it likely that ship will be interned. Is she offensively armed. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1027/26 to British Consul Ponta Delgada). My 2343/25. Arrived Ponta Delgada, 25/11 for repairs estimated to take 3 or 4 days. (D.D.I.C. 1043/26 to Ships and Authorities Areas A and B.).
Your 1027/26. It is understood having taken refuge in one Portuguese Port ship is not entitled to do so in another Portuguese Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1046/26 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar). Arrived Ponta Delgada 25/11 for repairs has been given 4 days to complete and proceed to sea otherwise will be interned (A.1) (N.A. Lisbon 1815/26 to Admiralty.

German Ships.

Indications one or more of German ships in Port Vigo may take advantage of present excellent weather conditions to leave tonight or very soon. (Acting Consul Vigo, 1727/26 to Admiralty). Reported indication some German M/V's may leave Vigo any time during next few days. (D.D.I.C. 2200/26 to F.O.C.N.A. and V.A.S. 2231/26 to S/M's on patrol in Area B).

MADRID

At Las Palmas. Supplied with 900 tons coal, 750 tons water, and provisions. (D.S. 449).

MACRIO

Strong indication that MACRIO at Bahia is expected to sail for Rio de Janeiro to load Castor Seeds and other cargo collected by Theodore Wille.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1501/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ABQUITAS — Sailing (from Ceara to Rio de Janeiro) postponed until 28/11. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1700/26).

ALABAMA — (Scuttled off Maracaibo 10/6) has arrived Las Piedras en route to Puerto Cabello. Ownership believed claimed by Venezuelan Government. (D.S. 449).

DENTICE. — (Salved after scuttling). Ownership believed claimed by Venezuelan Govt. (D.S. 449).

MECCA. — At Havana. Reported repainted and name and flag obliterated. (D.S. 449).

FRANCO MARTELLI. — Socony Vacuum of U.S.A. have obtained legal injunction on the whole cargo of FRANCO MARTELLI at Pernambuco and ship is arrested pending payment of carriage. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1732/26 to Admiralty).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VENDEMIAIRE — Due to have sailed from Martinique for Casablanca 24/11. If met she should be sent in under armed guard. (C.in C. A. and W.I. 0942/26 to DIOMEDE).

CHARLES PLUMIER. — N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1300/25. Master stated he had received no orders to scuttle his ship. Perhaps orders refer to cargoes not destined for Metropolitan France. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1003/26 to Admiralty).

VILLE DU HAVRE — See Vichy French.

MOST SECRET.

26.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HAVBOR (torpedoed 15/11). My 2129/18,4 survivors from HAVBOR torpedoed in same position as KOHINOR at 1130/15/11 have been rescued by BARON ARDROSSAN and brought to Freetown after 9 days on raft. They believe they are sole survivors. (C.in C. S.A. 1950/26 to Admiralty).

WEST WALES British 4384 tons. 3333 56.39 N., 00.56 W. (F.O. Humber, signal received by military, 1539/26 G.M.T.) Valentia Radio, 1529/26, 1533/26).

Submarines Reported.

0415. D.F., probable U/B, 56.50 N., 11° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0639/26, 0640/26).

1627. D.F., probable U/B, 54.40 N., 22.40 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1722/26).

Estimated U-boat dispositions

Italian 2 or 3 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

German 1 in Sierra Leone area or farther North.
3 between 55° North and 56° North of which
1 was about 22° West at 1548/25
1 was about 17° West at 1235/25.
1 may be between 12° West and 15° West.
1 was about 57° North 11° West at 0415/26.
1 near Flannan Isles homeward bound.
Possibly 1 Westward of Rockall.
1 in area 58° North to 60° North West of 20° West.
(D.D.I.C. 1216/26.)

Submarines Attacked.

0811/21. By RHODODENDRON, escorting O.B.244, about 56.30 N., 14.10 W. Fired 3 depth charges. Wreckage sighted immediately after explosion by C.O. and several responsible ratings. (Capt. D., Liverpool, 1814/26).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

PORT NAPIER Destroyed

PORT NAPIER (Minelayer) was accidentally destroyed by fire at Port Z.A. today.

2-U/Boats sunk

TALISMAN reports she has on board 4 survivors from two U-Boats stated tohave been sunk by direct hits by R.A.F. aircraft.

Dover Shelled

Dover was shelled this afternoon. Two shells fell in the harbour, but no damage resulted.

British Air Activity

Two Enemy Ships Sunk

An aircraft of Coastal Command on patrol off the Weser Estuary today, scored a hit amidships on a small oil tanker which burst into flames and was last seen sinking stern first.

Off Terschelling an aircraft of Coastal Command torpedoed a 5000 ton merchant vessel this morning. The ship was seen listed and with her stern out of water.

Sangle bombers of Bomber Command last night attacked five Channel Ports. Blenheims of Coastal Command bombed one Channel Port.

Beauforts attacked a 5,000 ton ship off Terschelling and scored a direct hit, the stern rising out of the water. Possibly PATAGONIA, which sent out S.O.S.

A roving offensive patrol obtained a direct hit on the tanker HAVBOR. 7600 tons off Wilhelmshaven, the vessel bursting into flames and being left in a sinking condition.

Extra A/S patrols were flown today in the N.W. Approaches as far as 14° W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 45 was attacked in the Thames Estuary without damage.

Trawlers CHARMOUTH and RATTRAY were attacked this afternoon whilst fishing about 70 miles West of Ireland. Both trawlers kept up incessant fire on the enemy bomber and were undamaged.

Mining

M/S ELK was mined and subsequently sank off Penlee Point.

SS GALACUM (585 tons) which sailed in F.N. 45 returned to Southend at 1100 today, having been damaged by a mine in the Thames Approaches (D.O.R.)

Mines were detonated in the Firth of Forth and the Thames Estuary. Hartlepool and Humber were opened this afternoon. Tees was closed this morning.

Mediterranean

Operation "Collar"

At 0933 a Sunderland which had been ordered by S.O. Force H to search for the enemy, sighted a force of 6 cruisers and 8 destroyers in position 38° 9' N., 8° 16' E., steering 60°.
At 1005 a report was received from one of ARK ROYALS's aircraft of 5 cruisers and 5 destroyers bearing 045° 60 miles steering 255° and 10 minutes later a further report of 2 battleships and 7 destroyers 040° 75 miles course 225° At 1020 Force H engaged the enemy at extreme range and the Sunderland reports that at 1027 one enemy 8" cruiser appeared to be hit. Subsequently a report was received of a cruiser on fire 10 miles off the enemy coast. At 1044 the enemy force scattered and retired, some N.E. and some N.W. Fire had ceased by 1130.

At 1027 S.O.Force H sent orders to BERWICK to join him (BERWICK is being withdrawn from the Mediterranean Fleet and was being passed through to Gibraltar under cover of Operation "Collar") DESPATCH and 2 destroyers were now detached with the convoy, and COVENTRY from Force D was ordered to rejoin the convoy. RENOWN and the remainder of cruisers and

/destroyers.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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/destroyers.....

MOST SECRET

27.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation "Collar"-Contd

destroyers proceeded to concentrate with Force D,(RAMILLIES, COVENTRY and 2 destroyers) The position of which at 1100 was 104° 38' N., 8° E., 28 miles steering 255° at 17 knots. (This force left Alexandria a.m./23 with BERWICK, escorting Convoy M.W. 4 consisting of 4 large transports, which arrived at Malta 26/11 BARHAM, EAGLE, MALAYA, ORION, SYDNEY, AJAX and 10 destroyers covered the movement.)

At 1052 S.O.Force H ordered ARK ROYAL to fly off a striking force to attack. At 1215 S.O.Force H reported the enemy as 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers bearing 343° 12 miles, steering 330°. He had sighted RAMILLIES and both sides opened fire at 1221. At 1239 he reported 2 battleships bearing 044° 20 miles. The enemy were out of range of RENOWN and RAMILLIES and they retired at high speed towards Cagliari. Force H was unable to close and at 1312 he ordered his force to rejoin the convoy. The convoy apparently passed well clear of the action and proceeded through Skerki Channel

At 1201 the Sunderland sighted a damaged Italian destroyer in position 38° 14' N., 8° 28' E., well down by the stern, and a few minutes later 3 enemy cruisers and 2 destroyers were sighted steering towards the damaged destroyer. The latter force was reported, but not the damaged destroyer. One other destroyer is believed to have been damaged.

The result of F.A.A. attacks were one torpedo hit on a battleship of LITTORIO class, one almost certain hit on a cruiser of BOLZANO class and possibly on one other cruiser, and one 6 inch cruiser apparently damaged by near miss.

The Italian communique 28/11 stated that the 8 inch cruiser FIUME was hit and a destroyer was seriously damaged and was taken in tow.

BERWICK has one turret out of action from shell fire. There was no other damage to our ships.

/The Fulmars....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation "Collar"-Contd.

One Fulmar was lost and one crashed on landing. Two enemy aircraft were shot down.

The Fleet was bombed during the day, without damage.

Air Operations

Malta was unsuccessfully bombed this evening.

Blenheims from Greece attacked a small convoy escorted by 2 destroyers, but scored no hits.

A standing patrol was maintained over Athens today.

America & West Indies

It has been approved to keep the U.S. Navy Dept., informed of dispositions of H.M. ships in the West Indies, on the West Coast of America, and in the vicinity of the Panama Canal.

Australia

Troop convoy U.S. 7 for the Middle East escorted by the cruisers CANBERRA and PERTH left Fremantle at 2152Z for Colombo.

27 members of the crew of PORT BRISBANE, sunk by raider on 21/11, and picked up next day by CANBERRA, state that the raider was a motor ship similar to NEIDENFELS, and had 4 guns on broadside, believed 4-inch. Two boats' crews were taken prisoner by the raider. CANBERRA also sighted an empty boat assumed to be from the MAIMOA.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

3 ships attacked by U-Boats today in the N.W. Approaches were all stragglers from convoys- CHARLES F. MEYER from H.X. 87. DIPLOMAT from H.X. 88, GLENMOOR from O.B. 248.

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Firth of Lorne A/S Patrol. Your 1711/26. Only Trawlers unsuitable for Convoy Escort are required for Loop Patrol Belfast and Convoy anchorage Dundrum Bay. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0931/27 to C.in C. W.A.).
Protection of Oban must take precedence for the present. Request you send to Oban the trawlers allocated to Dundrum Bay. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/27 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Northern Patrol. Your 1803/21. Concur in proposal for Northern Patrol but hope more trawlers can be made available for the Iceland Faroe passage by time mine barrier is completed. Until then some assistance to this Patrol will be afforded by ships covering minelaying operations. (C.in C. H.F. 1711/27 to Adty.)

Scapa A/A Defences. Your 1804/26. Detailed description of present berthing and Air Defence arrangements. Suggestions for possible improvements. (C.in C. H.F. 1927/27 to Adty.)

Ships of 1st. C.S. Your 1917/26. Ships of the 1st C.S. will be attached temporarily to the 10th C.S.; but it is assumed you would like them attached to the 18th C.S. when C.S.18 returns.
From an operational point of view it is considered that there are great advantages in the Admiral being in the Aircraft Carrier and it will certainly save much signalling.
(1st S.L. 0054/27 to C.in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

Faroe Islands. Request Adty. and War Office jointly represent to Ministry of Shipping urgent need for regular and speedy shipment to Faroes of Govt. stores. Average 1000 tons shipping space per month required. Also strongly recommend that Faroese TJALDUR be chartered for regular fortnightly service with Stores and Leave Personnel. These suggestions initiated by Naval Officers in charge. (O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands 530/24/11 to War Office. Recd. by Adty. from War Office at 0921/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Nore Command. Ships out of Action. My 1546/25. Delete VANESSA and VORTIGERN. (C.in C. Nore 0740/27 to Adty.)

Nore. Dispositions for Night 27/28. (C.in C. Nore 0800/27) Movements to 1200/28. (C.in C. Nore 1200/27).

Dover. Patrols for Night 27/28. (V.A. Dover 1237/27).

Orkneys. Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1819/27). Trawler Lines tonight (A.C.O.S. 1533/27)

Portsmouth. Night movements (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/27).

GLENGYLE / GLENROY To embark 2 Commandos Troops at Largs on 6/12 and proceed to Lamlash for training. Likely to be at Lamlash 7 to 10 days. (D.O.D.H. 1703/27 to V.A.C.T.C.) Request vessel such as Yacht TROUBADORE or SURPRISE may attend on Ships during period. (D.O.D. H. 1716/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

HOOD. To be taken in hand 15/1 at Rosyth for Turbine Repairs and Refit. Every effort to be made to complete by end February. (D.O.D. H. 1707/27 to C.in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS DIDO Adty. 1531/25. Route from latitude Gibraltar to Plymouth and Scapa respectively. (C.in C. W.A. 2138/27 to C.in C. S.A.).
Only A/C on board FURIOUS are 6 Skuas for her own protection.
(5th S.L. 1643/27 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.

JOKULL. (Icelandic Trawler) Left Fleetwood A.M./26 for Iceland through Minches. Suspect she may divert and pass 12 miles West of St. Kilda. If met off the route ordered, the fact to be reported. (C.in C. W.A. 0029 and 0943/27 to Ships)

Channel. 4 destroyers will be operating between 0° W. and 1° 30' W. on Night 28/29. (Capt. S.5. 1325/27 to SEAWOLF)

PEGASUS. Adty. 1312/26. If operation decided on, PEGASUS should arrive Belfast not later than P.M./5. Request C.O. visit Plymouth at early date. (C.in C. W.A. 1529/27 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

/ Dover shelled. ...

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Dover shelled. Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 8 rounds between 1510 and 1532 today. 6 fell just outside harbour, 1 inside Eastern Entrance, and 1 in S/M Basin. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A. Dover 1811/27 to Adty.)

TALISMAN Operation — V.A.(S) 1011/10 completed. 40 ton Ketch named LE CLIPPER sailed number L.O.X. 3501 White (?hull). Expected to cross channel from 30th November. Fishermen report U-boats leave Lorient during daylight north of Croix diving when west of Penmen. Never more than four U-boats seen Lorient at once. R.A.F. bombing very effective two U-boats sunk direct hits have four (? officers and men from) crews on board intend to continue patrol. (TALISMAN 1934/27 to Capt. S.2.)

Submarines.

SEAWOLF. Leave Patrol at 0200/29 and R/V with Escort at Position W. at 0830. (Capt. S.5. 1131/27 to SEAWOLF).

PORPOISE. Adty. 2341/22. Route from Clyde to Halifax, escorted to 59° N. 7° W. by TROUBADOUR. (C.in C. W.A. 1235/27 to Capt. S.2)
Sail PORPOISE 28/11 by Route in C.in C. W.A. 1235/27, diving by day from 59° N. 7° W. till 25° W. is reached. Submerged bombing restrictions to be arranged as necessary from 59° N. 7° W. to 25° W. (V.A.S. 1448/27 to S.2).
Request you delay sailing of PORPOISE till TROUBADOUR is ready P.M./29. (C.in C. W.A. 1935/27 to Capt. S.2).
Intend sail PORPOISE from Clyde at 0900/30 by Route in C.in C. W.A. 1235/27. E.T.A. Halifax 1600/13/12. G.M.T. (S.2. 2302/27 to Adty.)

O. 24. To leave Patrol 1800/28. Route. (Capt. S.9. 1407/27 to O. 24).

SURPRISE. Adty. 1252/14/10. To be held available in addition to TROUBADOUR for special service at 48 hours notice. (D.O.D.H. 1554/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/28. (V.A.S. 1844/27, 2102/27, 2343/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Off Terschelling. At 0756/27 in 53° 29' N. 5° 8' E. A/C attacked a 5000 ton M/V with Torpedo. Hit. M/V listed and stern seen out of water. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1450/27).

Air Patrols. Assessments. (C.in C. Rosyth 1824/27).

Off Weser. At 1440/27 in 53° 45' N. 8° 12' E. A/C attacked 600 ton Oil-Tanker with Torpedo. Hit. Tanker on fire and sinking when last seen. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1930/27).

Operation "Ceiling". R.A.N.A.S. No. 0141 of 17/8/40. Operation "Ceiling" Enclosure I delete all reference to Squadron L (R.A.N.A.S. 1353/27)

Mining.

Harwich. D.O. Walton reports heavy Explosion and Machine-Gun fire 220° Orfordness and 130° Shingle Light 1½ miles at 0846. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0846/27 to C.in C. Nore).

Tees and Hartlepool. Closed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0857/27 to Adty.) Open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1427/27 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary. HERO reports Red Mine detonated at 0320/27 by L.L. 232° Mid Barrow Light Vessel 1½ miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0916/27).

Little Sole Bank minefield. Adty. 1013/26. Mines embarked, and ADVENTURE ready to proceed. (ADVENTURE 1103/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

Thames Estuary. M/V CORTACHY, 273 tons, reports detonating one Accoustic Mine at 1035/24 between Wreck Buoy of East Oaze Light Vessel and Knob Light Vessel. Vessel was in Convoy F.N. 41. Details. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1145/27).

Humber. Open. (F.O. Humber 1234/27 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary. DAROOAH (M/S Trawler) reports Mine detonated in 240° Knob Bell Buoy 8 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1259/27 and 1818/27 to C.in C. Nore).

Plymouth, ELK sunk. Since my 1832/25 an Accoustic Mine has been detonated by M/S ELK in 185° Penlee Point 11.4 cables. ELK subsequently sank. No casualties. (C.in C. W.A. 2309/27 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

FOLKE WOLFE. Estimated position at 1205, 50° 20' N. 15° 50' W. (D.D.I.C. 1237/27 to C.in C. W.A.)

Northern Norway. Finnish s.s. KUURTANES arriving from Liverpool yesterday boarded by German trawler Nov. 21st taken to Tromso but released at once. She was stopped again Nov. 26th off Vardo by a German armed merchantman name unknown about 2500 tons gross armament (apparently) only A/A and machine guns but allowed to proceed after two hours. The same German had apparently stopped another Finnish unknown steamer possibly TAAUI believed to have been sent to Tromso. (Petsamo 1717/27 to D.N.I.).

Faroes. Unidentified Cargo Ship passed Skopen Fiord at 1740, westbound. About 3000 tons. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1801/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

NIGERIA. A.M. 1230/26 and my 1646/25. Trials unsatisfactory. Serious leak in pipe joints. (C.in C. W.A. 0014/27).

SHEARWATER. Have grounded Naisborough. Making water in A/S compartment. No other damage. Now anchored in deep water. Propose return Harwich at daylight. (SHEARWATER 0215/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

CLAN MACKAY (H.M. Drifter) In collision with Trawler COMMODATOR in Granton Harbour on 26/11. Estimate 6 weeks and £350 to repair. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1127/27 to Adty.)

PROGRESS. (Fishing Coble) Picked up, abandoned, 4 miles East of Fifeness at 1415/26 by M/V CORTACHY, and towed by her into Dundee. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1248/27 to Adty.)

WALLACE. Have sustained following damage in collision with Newarp Light Float. Holed above water. Leaks stopped. Estimate 48 hours to complete temporary repairs. (WALLACE 1200/27 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CORCREST. (British 2373 tons) Reports she collided with FULHAM II in the River. Holed, and now beached off Jenkins Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1806/27 to C.in C. Nore).

PORT NAPIER. (1st M/L Squadron) Lost by fire. Began about 1340/27, oil-tanks exploded between 1540 and 1600, and Ship now on beam ends bows in 20 fathoms and stern in 10. No casualties. (TRELAWNEY 1940/27 and 2007/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B. 244. Report of U/B attack on 21/11, torpedoing of DAYDAWN and VICTORIA, and attack on and probable destruction of U/B by RHODODENDRON, (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1814/26).

H.X.89. My 1445/26. COMORIN reports 10 hours late. (C.in C. W.A. 1021/27 to WANDERER, WARWICK, etc.).

E.N.33. CURACOA to escort to Pentland Firth. (R.A.D., 2206/27) JASON as additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/27) (N.C.S.O. Methil 1540/27).

H.X.85. 6 ships ex H.X.85 bound Bristol Channel overtaken 60 miles S. of Clyde at 0900/25 by a vessel believed small sloop, and ordered into Clyde. Report if anything known of this matter. (C.in C. W.A., to Capt. D., Londonderry, 1503/27).

W.N.43. FOWEY to meet. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1025/27, 1041/27) Postponed 25 hours. (N.C.S.O., Oban, 0917/27).

O.B.249
H.X.89. 7 ships O.B. 249 disperse in 55.25 N., 14.00 W. at 1800, proceeding CAMPANULA course 293° 10 knots to meet H.X.89. (FLUER DE LYS, 2359/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.C.12. Am going to meet. (VERITY, 1931/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N.32. PAYNTER and KING SOL. Additional escort FOWEY. (N.C.S.O. Methil 003/27).

H.X.92. MONTCLARE to escort (R.A. 3 B.S., 1011/27).

Air Risk. Importance of keeping A/A guns manned North of 40° N., and East of 20° W. (D.T.D. 1242/26).

S.C. Convoys. My 1903/23/8. S.C. Convoy stragglers for East Coast destinations only are to proceed to Clyde. Envelope D should be corrected. (D.T.D. 1845/27)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Free French Shipping. Correct message 1816/22 re Free French shipping on W. Coast of Africa. Para. 3 last line for AMABILITAS read CAPO OLMO. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 1008/27 to Admiralty).

PIERRE L. DREYFUS
CAP BLANC
KATIOORA
DUNKERQUE

Arrivals at Dakar. PIERRE L. DREYFUS on 23/11, CAP BLANC and KATIOORA on 24/11 with general cargo from Morocco. French Naval Officer arrived Casablanca from Orance states DUNKERQUE at Oran will be ready for action by March or April 1941. (B.N.A. Washington 1101/27 to Admiralty).

CUBA. Admiralty 2305/26 and N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1627/26. Numbers of passengers and crew for whom passage will be required. Request report of number which can be taken by each ship. (C.in C. S.A. 1157N/27 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

French Warship. Report type of ship speed and course. Is it certain French and not Dutch. (C.in C. S.A. 0958/27, Broadcast for JEDMOOR).
My 1339/26 and your 2105/26 JEDMOOR reports French warship in position 11° 08' S. 20° 09' W. at 0915/27. Likely this ship proceeding to escort VILLE DU HAVRE though course not given. DRAGON intercepting VILLE DU HAVRE, CUMBERLAND ordered to close and give support. (C.in C. S.A. 1721N/27 to Admiralty).
My 1449/26 and 2007/26 to HERMES repeated for information. DRAGON aware of import. JEDMORE reports French warship in position 011° 08' N., 20° 10' W. at 0915/27 course not given. Ship may be proceeding to escort VILLE DU HAVRE. You are to close DRAGON approaching VILLE DU HAVRE with her and remain in company to give support. DRAGON has instructions for interception and bringing ship in. (C.in C. S.A. 1743 N/27 to CUMBERLAND).
My 1449/26 and 1743/27. After locating VILLE DU HAVRE, HERMES to carry out search to north and endeavour to locate any French naval forces approaching, and if located to shadow and report. CUMBERLAND with DRAGON if armed guard has been put on board should proceed to intercept and turn back such a force before it can reach VILLE DU HAVRE acting in accordance with memo. 125 of 2/10 as amended by my 2061/14/11. (C.in C. W.A. 1933/27 to CUMBERLAND, HERMES).

/ My 1743/27 ....

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French. (Contd.)

French Warship. (contd.)

My 1743/27 French warship now reported as Sloop D'IBERVILLE class steering 060° 12 knots. CUMBERLAND to proceed to Freetown in accordance with previous orders; HERMES to carry out reconnaissance ordered in my 1349/26. CUMBERLAND, DRAGON to proceed to intercept VILLE DU HAVRE in accordance with sailing orders. (C.in C. S.A. 2231N/27 to CUMBERLAND).

VILLE DU HAVRE.

Departure 0600/27 DRAGON to intercept French ship VILLE DU HAVRE. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1053/27, to Admty. and HERMES).

VILLE DE TAMATAVE.

French ship VILLE DE TAMATAVE sailed from Madagascar for France on 9/11 and carries Ex-Governor General and Ex-Controller of Finance, possibly for court martial in France. Vessel was reported by aircraft off Cape Point at 1859/19 but escaped. If vessel is sighted special effort should be made to intercept her subject to any instructions in force at the time concerning escorted ships. (Hd. of S., 1916/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Keep steam at 4 hours notice. (F.O.C.N.A. 1334/27, to ROYAL SOVEREIGN). Revert to 12 hours notice. (F.O.C.N.A. to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Raider.

Secret sources report informant in German official circles states German man-of-war raided in N. Atlantic short of fuel. (C.O.) (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1710/27 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NORMAN STAR, TORDENE

NORMAN STAR departure Buenos Aires 9/11 due Freetown 23/11 and TORDENE departure Cardiff 18/10 due Buenos Aires 18/11 have not arrived.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 1008/37 to Admiralty)

Freetown Naval Air limit shore base.

Your 1827/25. Not possible to provide a shore based Naval Air unit for Freetown. Air Ministry intend send Blenheim IV's for dual role of bombers and A/S duties. (D.N.A.D. 1054/27 to C.in C. S.A.).

AVILA STAR.

Following intercepted from Notraship addressed Master Norwegian Whaling Factory KOSMOS c/o Norwegian Consulate Dakar begins. Please state number of crew aboard. Ends. Request may be informed if news of KOSMOS.
C.in C. S.A. Station 1251/30/10 refers.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1214/27 to Admiralty).

ALCANTARA.

Your 2005/22. Request immediate reply whether prepared to accept delay of from three to five weeks in completion date of ALCANTARA to fit catapult.
(D.O.D.(F) 1618/27 to C.in C. S.A.)
Your 1618/27. Yes. Can longer range guns and all possible improvements be fitted at same time. Can it be assumed catapult will not now be fitted in ARAWA and MORETON BAY if so MORETON BAY refit need not be deferred. (C.in C. S.A. 1931/27 to Admiralty).

German and Italian M/V's

QUANZA (Portuguese) reports 2 German merchant ships at Lobito and 2 German and 1 Italian at Lorenco Marques.
(DELHI, 1832/27 to C.S.I., C.in C. S.A.)

PRETORIA CASTLE
CARNARVON CASTLE
escort duty.

Large diesel engined A.M.Cs PRETORIA CASTLE and CARNARVON CASTLE when as is sometimes necessary employed on convoy escort duty experience difficulty when stationed on the convoy at slow speed after being met by local escort in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1240/2/11. Proposed that these ship should leave convoy after rendezvous in N.A. and return direct to Freetown without proceeding to a U.K. port unless required to do so for engine repairs, also all A.M.Cs who have difficulty at slow speed shall at C.Os discretion proceed independently to U.K. port after meeting local escorts if weather conditions render station keeping in the convoy undesirable. (C.in C. S.A. 1905/27 to Admiralty).

/ ADMIRAL SCHEER. .....

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

1. My 1329/9 presence of SCHEER in North Atlantic and probable existence of five armed merchant raiders operating overseas has necessitated forming Hunting Groups.
FORMIDABLE will with BERWICK and NORFOLK form Force "K".
FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK will sail from U.K. about ∠ (date) for Trinidad being joined by BERWICK in vicinity of Azores. Later Force "K" will proceed to Freetown. FORMIDABLE will exchange with ARK ROYAL when worked up. (D.O.D.(F) 1746/27 to FORMIDABLE).

Convoy W.S.4 B, HAWKINS

HAWKINS from Simonstown, after completion of practice in False Bay at 1930/27, sailed to rendezvous with convoy W.S.4B in accordance with your 1255/25 to Admiralty.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1945Z/27 to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET

27.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Action with Italaian Forces.

Enemy Reports	Enemy position. One Battleship, 7 cruisers Taranto. (A/C 0125/27 to ?)
BERWICK	My position course and speed 230° 38° N., 8° E., 34, 075° 27 knots, join me. Report position course and speed. (S.O.Force H., 1027/27 to BERWICK)
Force D.	Your 1027 Force D position course and speed 104, 38° N., 8° E., 28 255° 17 knots. (BERWICK 1100/27 to S.O.Force H)
	(Force D. RAMILLIES, NEWCASTLE, COVENTRY, HERO, HEREWARD, VAMPIRE, VENDETTA) (BERWICK being passed through with "Collar"
DESPATCH RENOWN RAMILLIES	DESPATCH and two destroyers detached with Convoy. RENOWN and remainder of cruisers and destroyers proceeding to rendezvous with RAMILLIES. (S.O.Force H., 1045/27 to C. in C., Med.)
COVENTRY	COVENTRY to join convoy, position course and speed 220, 38° N., 8° E., 23. 120° 15 knots. (S.O.Force H., 1049/27 to RAMILLIES)
Aircraft to Attack	Fly off striking force and attack. (S.O. Force H., 1052/27 to ARK ROYAL)
Enemy Force	What is composition of enemy force? Is LITTORIO class battleship present? (S.O.Force H., 1106/27 to ARK ROYAL)
Force H Position	My position course and speed 160 38° N., 8° E., 11, 045° 27 knots in company 2 EN.BS (?)- and 6 CR 010° 30 knots. (S.O.Force H., 1149/27 to C. in C., Med.)
Air Attack	What time will torpedo bomber attack? (S.O. Force H., 1138/27 to ARK ROYAL)
Enemy Position	Following has been read: 126 (Position of Enemy?) 2 CR, 2 DR, 12 MV, Palermo. (From A/C 1145/27)
	Estimated Enemy Battlefleet bears 010° distant 30 miles from me. (S.O.Force H., 1145/27 to Battle Fleet)
C.S. 18	Take all cruisers less COVENTRY, DESPATCH, under you orders. (S.O.Force H., 1145/27 to C.S. 18)
	Cruisers negative DESPATCH COVENTRY join C.S. 18. (S.O.Force H., 1159/27 to cruisers)

/DUNCAN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

DUNCAN — Maximum speed 24 knots unreliable. (Message incompletely received) (DUNCAN 1203/27 to S.O.Force H.)

SOUTHAMPTON — 1 unknown ship, bearing unknown distance unknown, my position 095, 38° N., 8° E.,20. (SOUTHAMPTON 1206/27)

Following has been read: One unknown ship bearing course distance unknown. My position 095 38° N., 8° E., 20. (Malta 1206/27)

MANCHESTER Enemy Units — 3 Cruisers bearing 337° } 15 miles
2 destroyers bearing 343° }
course 300°, position 074, 38° N., 8° E.,13 (MANCHESTER 1213/27 to S.O.Force H.)

C.S. 18 — Three Cruisers Three Destroyers bearing 343° 12 miles, approximate course 330. My position 81 42° N., 8° E., (C.S. 18 1215/27 to S.O.Force H.)

Enemy Cruisers — 4 cruisers bearing 003 distant 15 (?) miles course unknown, my position 065 38° N., 8° E., 14. (SOUTHAMPTON 1214/27 to Malta W/T)

My 1215. 6" Cruiser (Italian) (SOUTHAMPTON 1220/27)

2 Cruisers unknown number of Destroyers bearing 003° 12 miles course 100° position 073 BFVA 21. (SOUTHAMPTON 1218/27 to Malta W/T)

My 1214. Enemy course 070 degrees. (C.S. 1216/27 to S.O.Force H.)

Position of enemy, three Cruisers and two Destroyers, in 38° N., 8° E., 3053, Course 235. Speed 20 knots. (A/C 1225/27)

2 Battleships — 2 Battleships bearing 044° Distance 20 miles. Course unknown. Position 053, 38° N., 8° E., 16. (S.O.Force H., 1239/27)

8 D.F. — My course is 020 degrees. (D.8. 1240/27 to Destroyers in Company)

Turn together 240 degrees. (D.8. 1252/27 to Destroyers in Company)

/2 Battleships..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

2 Battleships	My 1329. Two Battle Ships bearing 038° 17 miles course 050° 049, 38° N., 8° E., 22. (S.O.Force H., 1251B/27 to Force H.)
Order to Retire	Retire Ships in company. (S.O.Force H., 1312B/27 to ? Group or Destroyers in Company)
Situation 1318/27	Have engaged enemy at extreme range. No apparent result. Enemy retiring at high speed towards Cagliari. Am unable to close. My position 05 4 38° N., 8° E., 32 am retiring to join convoy. (S.O.Force H., 1318/27 to C. in C., Med.)
Damaged Enemy Cruiser	Endeavour to keep damaged cruiser and other units under observation. (S.O.Force H., 1401B/27 to ARK ROYAL)
DESPATCH COVENTRY	Your 1312, 220° La Gulite light 15 miles 090° 15 knots. COVENTRY and 3 destroyers in company. (DESPATCH 1415/27 to V.A. Force H.)
	Indicate position course and speed. (S.O. Force H., 1458/27, to DESPATCH)
Convoy Route	Intend passing convoy through Skerki Channel. Force B providing cover to Northward. Force F should reach rendezvous 0600/28. (S.O.Force H., 1520/27 to C. in C., Med.)
Force H.	Pass to Whitehall W/T only, from Nore W/T Following received: Proceed in execution of previous orders 1704/27. (S.O.Force H 1611/27 to Force H.)
DESPATCH	Indicate your position course and speed. (S.O.Force H., 1618/27 to DESPATCH)
	Indicate your position course and speed immediately (S.O.Force H., 1642/27 to DESPATCH)
18. C.S.	Burst all short. (F.D. 18 C.S., 1654/27 to S.O.Force H.)
Forces A and F	Rendezvous for Forces A and F.036° 00' N., 013° 25' E., at 0800/28. My 1155/27 to C.S. 3. only. 3 C.S. keep clear of Force F to eastward and make rendezvous. (C. in C., Med. 1705/27 to C.S. 3. C.S. 18)

/Summary....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

Summary from Aircraft

Following is information of today's action south of Sardinia given by SUNDERLAND on return.

(a) At 0822 RAMILLIES with cruisers and destroyers were sighted in position 340° 23 miles from Galita Is. steering 240°.

(b) Shortly afterwards Force H. was sighted in position 037° 37' N., 007° 48'E

(c) At 0902 the Sunderland was sent by S,O.Force H. to search for the enemy. A force of 6 cruisers and 8 destroyers was located at 0933 in position 038° 09' N., 008° 16' E., steering 60°. This was passed to RENOWN by V/S at 0945.)

(d) At 1020 the action began and at 1027 one enemy cruiser appeared to be hit. At 1044 the enmy force scattered and retired some N.E. and some N.W. still being engaged.
By 1130 fire had ceased.

(e) At 1155 French ships CHAMPOLLION and MARIETTE PACHA were in position 038° 19' N., 008° 30' E., steering 320°. These were reported.

(f) At 1201 a damaged Italian destroyer was in position 038° 14' N., 008° 28' E well down by the stern and at 1208 three enemy cruisers and two destroyers were in position 038° 30' N., 008° 53' E., steering towards damaged destroyer. The latter force was reported, but not the damaged destroyer.

(g) At 1240 the British Force was in position 037° 48' N., 008° 56' E., steering S.E. and being bombed. No damage was observed.

2. The convoy of M.T. ships apparently passed South of Galita Island well clear of the action and are proceeding through Skerki Channel. 3. All times are G.M.T. (V.A.Malta, 1911/27 to C. in C., Med., and Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FORRIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Blenheims.	5 left Thorney Island 0215 G.M.T. E.T.A. Malta 0930 G.M.T. (Thorney Island 0410/27 to H.Q. Med.)
RORRUAL.	Operation B.S. leave Alexandria 0900/29. Route. (Capt: S.1. 0912/27 to RORRUAL).
U/Boat Attacked.	By Greek Destroyer 21/11. (See U/Boat Campaign).
Palemo and Trapani Reconnaissance.	Air reconnaissance Trapani 26/11. Details. (Capt: S.1 to UPRIGHT 0927/27) Reconnaissance Palemo at 1115B/27. 2 cruisers, 2 or 3 destroyers, one 10,000 ton liner, 12 6,000 ton M/V's. Trapani, possibly 1 cruiser. (V.A. Malta 1353/27, 1411/27).
Messina Balloons.	I. 129 27/11. My I. 127 26/11. Balloons reported at Messina were at 1,500 not 15,000 feet. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 2100/27).
Taranto etc.	Reconnaissance report. 27/11. (V.A. Malta 1535/27, 1931/27).
Submarine Sanctuary.	Sanctuary Summary No.3. (Capt: S.1. 0917/27).
Suez Canal.	Your 1129/5 and relating signals. Understand H.M. Ambassador has satisfied you that existing arrangements should be sufficient to prevent developments feared by you. (Hd. of M. to S.B.N.O. Suez. 1917/27).
Convoys. W.S.4A. W.S.4B.	Following particulars supplement those in my 2023/4, (D. of S.T. 1756/27 to C.in C's Med, S.A., E.I.)
Greece.	Situation. (M.B.Athens to W.O. 1040/27). Air Report. No Naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Greece 1718/27).
A/C Crews.	Re shortage of reserves for Med. carrier squadrons. (C.in C. Med. 1535/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Supply of Glenn Martins.

Asking Glenn Martin position and prospects of further delivery. Reconnaissance requirements of C.in C. Med. cannot continue to be met with only 3 Glenn Martins. Since Taranto attack and partial dispersion of Italian Fleet calls for distant reconnaissances only possible by Glenn Martins, are increasing.
(H.Q. Med. 0900/27).

Italian Troop Transports.

My 1701/21 Para.2. (Preparation for embarkation of German Troops at Trieste). Split report will probably be indication that Axis powers are employing tactics similar to Norwegian Campaign by sending reinforcements to Albania through Yugo-Slavia territorial waters. Latest report up to p.m./25 states troops had embarked but ships had not sailed, destination believed to be San Giovanni Medua. Reports unassessed but have been checked and confirmed by Yugo-Slavia Authorities.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 0958/27).

Air Report. Valona Attack.

Day 26/11. 3 Blenheims attacked Valona 250 lb. bombs hitting large ship believed warship. 3 fighters intercepted of which 1 believed shot down.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1219/27).

LADY BIRD Operation M.X.2.

Sail from Alexandria 1600/28 and proceed as necessary arriving Marsa Matruh a.m./29 to relieve APHIS. Carry out operation M.X.2. and on completion return to Mersa Matruh and act as directed by G.O.C. Western Desert. Return to Alexandria when fuel has fallen to 40%.
(Capt: S.1. to LADY BIRD 1233/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

VIKING. — Your 1940/19. Neutral vessels requisitioned by us fly British flag. Are Greek Government satisfied that under Danish flag VIKING will be safe from lawsuits by Germans or by Danish owners if she enters Turkish port? (Head of M. 1316/27, to N.A. Athens).

Warning of A/C Approach — Warning given by type 279 of approach of low flying aircraft undoubtedly limited AJAX detection of torpedo aircraft which are greatest menace to fleet and the low flying reconnaissance machine is thus difficult and uncertain. Understood that with type 281 this limitation has been overcome. Requested that this type may be sent as soon as available for fitting in ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT, AJAX and COVENTRY with local resources in lieu of type 279. Also requested that type 281 may be fitted in any ships which may join Mediterranean Fleet in future. (C.in C. Med., 1651/27)

East Indies.

Red Sea Forces. — My 1124/2/9 and 0302/9/10 delete DERBY, HUNTLEY, SHROPSHIRE. (C.in C. E. Indies 1542Z/27 to E. Indies Station).

Air Report. — Intelligence Summary No. 168 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500, 27/11. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter Escort over convoy S.W.33. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1810/27 to Air Min.).

Troop Transports. — Your 1300/23 presume you will arrange for bunkering at Trincomalee. (D. of S.T. 2120/27 to C.in C. E.I.)

Convoy B.N.10. — Route and details. (N.C.S.O. Bombay to Admty., 0105/27)

Operation "Canned" — Your 0554/22. LEANDER will carry out operation "Canned" 1030Z/29/11. Orders to LEANDER and Walrus A/C. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1737Z/27 to C.in C. E.I.)

CAPETOWN CRICKET — Present intention CAPETOWN shall proceed from Patrol to arrive Penang A.M.1/12 and after fuelling sail with CRICKET same day for Nancowry where Oiler APPLELEAF will be sent. Adjust position on patrol line accordingly. Estimated that CAPETOWN and CRICKET will arrive Colombo 9/12 (C.in C. E.I. 0744Z/27 to CAPETOWN)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MONTCLARE	Intend sailing MONTCLARE as Ocean Escort to H.X.92 returning to Halifax on completion. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1011/27, to Admty.)
VAN KINSBERGEN	Leave Kingston Jamaica a.m./28 and proceed via Crooked Is. passage to Nassau to arrive a.m./30. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1152/27).
Raider Wreckage	My 1201/24. DIOMEDE reports two lifeboats belonging to Port Line in position 024° 24' N. 059° 03' W. Boats full of provisions and intact but no occupants. Appearance indicates latter rescued probably by raider. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1602/27)
Raider Supplies.	United Press, Washington, have received a tip that Portuguese interests are chartering neutral vessels to load coal at Norfolk for refuelling German Raider in Atlantic and directed their representatives at Norfolk to make enquiries on this subject from me. (Consul, Norfolk, Va, 1300/27, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
U.S. Navy Information of H.M. Ships.	Naval Attache's 1719/19. Approved to keep U.S. Navy Department informed of dispositions of H.M. Ships in West Indies, on West coast of America and in vicinity of Panama Canal. Request C.in C. A. and W.I. will keep N.A. informed of dispositions and movements. N.A. should also suggest to U.S. Navy Department that reciprocal information concerning movements of U.S. warships in the Caribbean Area would be of great assistance to C.in C. A. and W.I. (Head of M. 1645/27 to C.in C. A.W.I., and N.A. Washington).

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Raider
PORT BRISBANE
sunk.

Five officers and 22 of crew of PORT BRISBANE picked up by CANBERRA in position 029° 22' S. 095° 36' E. at 1130Z/22. Survivors state occupants of two boats taken prisoner by raider. Description of raider. General appearance like NEIDENFELS. W/T Office, Bridge, and steering gear of PORT BRISBANE wrecked by gunfire. Time bombs placed on board and three heard to explode. Ship subsequently sunk by torpedo.

MAIMOA
Boat found.

CANBERRA sighted empty boat in position 030° 41' S. 100° 09' E. assumed to be from MAIMOA.
(A.C.N.B. 1221Z/27 to Admty.)

Your 1221/27 Colour does not correspond with description given in your 0446/23. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1615/15 being passed to you for comparison. Request your remarks. (C.in C. E.I., 1908Z/27 to A.C.N.B.)

New Zealand.

Search for
Raider.

My 1730Z/26. Result today's search negative. Further search by air and ACHILLES being carried out 27/11 G.M.T. TAI PING YANG (Nor:) Panama to Auckland 48 hours overdue may have encountered raider. Position of s.o.s. from RANGITANE was 165 miles 180° from estimated position on route ordered. (N.Z.N.B., 1159Z/27, to A.C.N.B. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PATAGONIA
S.O.S. Report.

Following received PATAGONIA
S.O.S. F.F.F., = Position 63, 38 N.
6. 13 E. (Scapa W/T, No T.O.O./27)

Intercept 0658 G.M.T. from PATAGONIA
53 - 38 N. 6 - 13 E. (N.F. Radio,
No T.O.O./27).

Intercept 0803 G.M.T. from EMDEN to
PATAGONIA, Wir Kommen. (N. Foreland Radio,
No T.O.O./27 V.A. Dover 0938/27)

KARNAK.

KARNAK arrived from Vigo 26/11.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1842/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHARLES F. MEYER — British tanker, 10516 tons.
(Straggler from H.X.87)
Detail one ship to investigate report of ship attacked by submarine position 056° 00' N. 013° 52' W. at 1124 G.M.T.
(C.in C. W.A. 1241/27 to WANDERER)

My noon position 055° 31' N. 015° 11' W. Have sent VERITY to help CHARLES MEYER being attacked by submarine 056° 00' N. 013° 52' W. Have left seven ships of O.B. 248 to meet S.C.12. No other escort in company. (WITHERINGTON, 1244/27, to C.in C. W.A.)

Received 1230 G.M.T. CHARLES F. MEYER. SSSS 56.00 N. 1352W submarine attack. (Portishead Radio 1330/27)

My 1241/27. Ship attacked is GMYM Signal letters undecypherable homeward bound tanker. (C.in C. W.A., 1349/27, to WANDERER).

Following has been read: 56.00 N. 13.52 W. CHARLES F. MEYER, submarine attack T.O.R. 1340. (Scapa Radio, no T.O.O./27).

Detail one ship to investigate report of ship attacked by submarine position 056° 00' N. 013° 52' W. at 1124 G.M.T. (C.in C. W.A., 1507/27 to WILD SWAN)

My position course and speed are 055° 34' N. 014° 03' W. 240° 14 knots, have failed to locate CHARLES F MEYER or submarine, am going to meet S.C.12. (VERITY, 1931/27)

KING IDWAL
MERIC
ANTEN
(torpedoed 23/11)

Arrived SANDWICH with survivors from Merchant Ships KING IDWAL, TYMERIC and ANTEN. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1520/27).

Your 1311/23. ANTEN was oil burner of 9325 tons dead weight and sailed with 2700 tons of ballast including oil fuel. This is considered to be satisfactory. So far as can be ascertained ship was capable of speed of 10½ knots. Suggest surviving Officers be interrogated by N.C.S.O. Liverpool.
(D.T.D. 1846/27 to C.in C. W.A.)

/ GLENMOOR ....

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.
Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

GLENMOOR

British, 4393 tons. (Straggler from O.B. 248) GLENMOOR, 54.35 N. 14.31 W., torpedoed. (Valentia Radio, 1800/27).

Not met. Am proceeding towards GLENMOOR reported torpedoed in 54° 35' N. 14° 31' W. at 1804. Uncoded weather report. (FOLKESTONE, 1900/27).

GLENMOOR torpedoed in position 054° 35' N. 014° 31' W. at 1804. If FOLKESTONE, ARBUTUS and CAMELLIA have joined you send one ship to investigate. (C.in C. W.A., 1929/27 to LEITH)

BRUSE
(torpedoed 23/11)

Following received from aircraft S.S. BRUSE at 1550 in position 56° 00' N. 08° 44' W. drifting East stern blown off. No sign of life. Cargo timber in hold and on deck. No sign of sinking. (C.in C. W.A., 1849/27, to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Proceed forthwith to assistance of BRUSE in position 56° 00' N. 08° 44' W. drifting East at 1550 today. THAMES also proceeding. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2008/27 to SEAMAN).

CONGONIAN
(torpedoed 18/11).

Your 1752/26 (Request for news of CONGONIAN). DEVONSHIRE has 35 survivors of CONGONIAN on board and is expected to arrive Freetown on 29/11. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1150/27 to Admty.)

My 1150/27. DEVONSHIRE has on board all crew of CONGONIAN except second engineer. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2057/27 to Admty.)

DIPLOMAT.

British, 8240 tons, (straggler from H.X.88.)
Following has been read.
DIPLOMAT torpedoed. (Malin Head Radio, 2227/27).

Attack (enemy) S/M in position 055° 45' N. 011° 57' W. at 2325.
(C.in C. W.A., 2356/27, to WILD SWAN, CAMPANULA, FLEUR DE LYS).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of DIPLOMAT in position 55° 45' N. 11° 57' W. at 2334.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2359/27 to ASSURANCE).

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

GLENMOOR

British, 4393 tons. (Straggler from O.B. 248) GLENMOOR, 54.35 N. 14.31 W., torpedoed. (Valentia Radio, 1800/27).

Not met. Am proceeding towards GLENMOOR reported torpedoed in 54° 35' N. 14° 31' W. at 1804. Uncoded weather report. (FOLKESTONE, 1900/27).

GLENMOOR torpedoed in position 054° 35' N. 014° 31' W. at 1804. If FOLKESTONE, ARBUTUS and CAMELLIA have joined you send one ship to investigate. (C.in C. W.A., 1929/27 to LEITH)

BRUSE
(torpedoed 23/11)

Following received from aircraft S.S. BRUSE at 1550 in position 56° 00' N. 08° 44' W. drifting East stern blown off. No sign of life. Cargo timber in hold and on deck. No sign of sinking. (C.in C. W.A., 1849/27, to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Proceed forthwith to assistance of BRUSE in position 56° 00' N. 08° 44' W. drifting East at 1550 today. THAMES also proceeding. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2009/27 to SEAMAN).

CONGONIAN
(torpedoed 18/11).

Your 1752/26 (Request for news of CONGONIAN). DEVONSHIRE has 35 survivors of CONGONIAN on board and is expected to arrive Freetown on 29/11. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1150/27 to Admty.)

My 1150/27. DEVONSHIRE has on board all crew of CONGONIAN except second engineer. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2057/27 to Admty.)

DIPLOMAT.

British, 8240 tons, (straggler from H.X.88.)
Following has been read.
DIPLOMAT torpedoed. (Malin Head Radio, 2227/27).

Attack (enemy) S/M in position 055° 45' N. 011° 57' W. at 2325. (C.in C. W.A., 2355/27, to WILD SWAN, CAMPANULA, FLEUR DE LYS).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of DIPLOMAT in position 55° 45' N. 11° 57' W. at 2334. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2359/27 to ASSURANCE).

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0225. Between Rockall and Ireland, very indefinite. (D.S. 449).

0725. About 10° W. in Bay of Biscay, Italian U/B, very indefinite. (D.S. 449).

0817. Off Bordeaux, Italian U/B, very indefinite. (D.S. 449).

1016. 160° Nogg in Head 9 miles course 225°, doubtful. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1035/27, 1225/27, to HIGHLANDER)

1224. Detail one ship to investigate report of ship attacked by S/M 56.00 N., 13.52 W. at 1124 G.M.T. (C.in C. W.A., 1241/27, to WANDERER) See CHARLES F. MEYER, attacked.

1643. D.F., probable U/B, unreliable fix, 57° N., 19.30 W. (D.D.I.C. 1730/27).

1900. A.F. message, 54.35 N., 14.31 W. at 1800/27 G.M.T. (D.C. 1939/27)

2254. D.F. probable homeward bound U/B, in vicinity of Fastnet, probably to south westward. (D.D.I.C. 2336/27).

2325. 55.45 N., 11.57 W. (DIPLOMAT torpedoed). WILD SWAN and CAMPANULA to attack (C.in C. W.A., 2355/27).

1135. 53 to 55° N., 17 to 23° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 450).

1107. 56 to 58° N., 21 to 23° W., indefinite. (D.S. 450).

Use of Rio de Oro. Your 1612/22. Following from Teneriffe. Begins. Report strongly doubted as regards (?Canary Islands) A (2) report regarding Rio de Oro, follows next week. 1450/26 Ends.
He is using S.P. 02300 S (2). Has he received instructions from you to do so? (1558/27.)

/ Estimated U/B dispositions, ...

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian 2 in N.W. Approaches or further West.
1 reaching Bordeaux from patrol.
1 in Bay of Biscay outward bound.

German No news of the one which was off Sierra Leone on 18th.
1 in 54° 40' N. 22° 40' W. at 1627/26.
1 to Westward of Rockall at 2326/26.
1 to Southeastward of Rockall within 100 miles at 0225/27.
1 probably North of Rona homeward bound.
1 probably still in area 58° N. to 60° N. west of 20° W.
No news of the two more probably still between 55° N. and 57° N.
(D.D.I.C. 1240/27).

Submarines Attacked.

TALISMAN Report. Fishermen report U-boats leave Lorient daylight north of Groix, diving when west of Penmen. Never more than 4 U-boats seen Lorient at once. R.A.F. bombing very effective, 2 U-boats sunk direct hits. (TALISMAN 1934/27).

Mediterranean.

21/11. Greek destroyer depth charged enemy S/M 21/11 in Skiathos Channel. Destruction probable. (N.A. Athens 1010/27).

MOST SECRET.

28.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Dover shelled. — Enemy coastal batteries fired about 25 rounds at Dover today. 3 naval ratings were wounded. S.S. FERMAIN and SKIPJACK were slightly damaged. (D.S. 453).

S/M's for Mediterranean. — Three more U-class S/Ms of 5th Flotilla are to be sent to the Mediterranean. (c.f. North Atlantic 29/11).

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command. — A light force successfully attacked Channel ports last night. Only 2 of the aircraft despatched today to attack targets on the Belgian coast, were able to reach their objective.

Enemy Air Operations.

Plymouth was raided for eight hours from 1830/27 to 0227/28. Two tanks were set alight at Turnchapel oil fuel depot and are probably a total loss. At Mount Batten R.A.F. station two flying boats and a hangar were destroyed.

S.S. SATELLITE was attacked this morning off Plymouth. No damage was reported.

S.S. HARMONIC was attacked at 1154 about 250 miles west of Ireland. No damage was reported.

Mining.

MANX PRINCE sunk. — L.L. Trawler MANX PRINCE was mined and sunk early this morning off Spurn Head.

Enemy mining. — Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Plymouth area early this morning, in the Thames Estuary and between Flamborough and the Wash between 1800 and midnight today. It is estimated that 30 minelaying aircraft were engaged. Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary, off the Humber, Milford Haven and Plymouth.

/ British minelaying operations. .....

MOST SECRET.

28.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

British minelaying operations.

ICARUS left Portsmouth at 2020 escorted by three destroyers, for operations in Baie de la Seine.

Minelaying by R.A.F. continued last night and today.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CANTON reported this morning having intercepted 2 French merchant ships escorted by a sloop, about 250 miles S.S.E. of Freetown, and allowed them to proceed in accordance with standing instructions.
DRAGON this afternoon intercepted French VILLE DU HAVRE about midway between Pernambuco and Freetown and placed an armed guard on board.
2. The French ship has lost her propellers. A French naval tug arrived and asked to be coaled by VILLE DU HAVRE, but refused to tow her. The French ship was eventually released.

South Atlantic.

QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived at Table Bay 27/11. Up to 1025 Z today she had been unable to fuel from a tanker, on account of the swell.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

Malta was raided seven times between 2155/27 and 1250/28 by formations varying from 2 to a large number of aircraft, the convoy being the main objective. At 1250 a force of 10 bombers and 10 fighters split into two when 10 miles out, one of which attacked the convoy entering Grand Harbour. No damage was caused, and 3 enemy aircraft confirmed and one probable were destroyed.

3 Blenheims today bombed Sarande (Santi Quaranta) where shipping, including destroyers had been reported.
A large ship was attacked in the port.
Several destroyers which were bombarding Corfu retired on the approach of our aircraft.
Durazzo was successfully bombed today.
Standing patrols of Athens were maintained.

/ Operation "Collar".

MOST SECRET.

28.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operation "Collar".

The 2 M.T. ships arrived at Malta p.m. today, with HOTSPUR, DECOY, GRIFFIN and GLOXINIA.
The other 3 L.L. corvettes are proceeding to Suda Bay.

East Indies.

Blenheims today attacked an A.A. vessel in Assab harbour, obtaining near misses.

Reuter today states that Italians claim that one of their submarines in the Red Sea torpedoed and sank three merchant ships 26/11 in an escorted convoy. CALEDON escorting S.W.3 reports 3 underwater explosions felt early a.m./26. It is possible that S.W.3 was fired at and the torpedoes exploded at the end of their run, without hitting.

New Zealand.

Norwegian TAI PING YANG which has arrived at Auckland, reports having seen wreckage and a large patch of oil and still coming up, in the position where RANGITANE was attacked 26/11. It is therefore presumed that RANGITANE was sunk.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Shetlands. Additional Aerodromes.

Your 1517/25. The question of additional aerodromes in Shetlands has been discussed many times with the Air Ministry who, on various occasions, have sent 3 independent parties of officers and surveyors to try and find suitable sites, but without success.
Can you suggest a possible site, observing that for heavy bombers one strip of 1400 yards and two of 1100 yards are considered necessary. (1st S.L. 1001/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

DELUGE

At 1130/28 (D.C. 1157/28) At 2330/28. (D.C. 2345/28)

Movements

Nore

Movements for night 28/29. (C. in C., Nore 0800/28)

VENOMOUS
VESPER

Admty 2046/25. Request VENOMOUS may proceed to Harwich, and VESPER to Sheerness (C. in C., Nore, 1130/28 to A.C.W.A.)

FORMIDABLE

FORMIDABLE's 2123/27. She should not anchor outside a defended Port. (A.C.N.S.H. 1140/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Northern Patrol

Movements (V.A.N.P. 1226/28)

GLENGYLE
GLENROY

Cancel Admty 1717/27 (A.D.O.D. 1301/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) Admty 1501/9, para 5. Request you ensure that GLENGYLE is maintained at 48 hours notice to sail. (D.O.D. H. 1512/28 to V.A.C.T.C.)
Admty. 1703/27. About 75 shipping tons of Army stores to be embarked in each ship. Directions as to embarkation. (D.O.D. H. 1552/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

M.L. 269

Sailed Tobermory 28/11. E.T.A. Clyde 0830/29 (WESTERN ISLES 1520/28)

KINGFISHER

Arrived (F.O. Greenock, 1754/28 to Admty)

HOOD

Expect arrive with 4 Destroyers 0705/29 (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1933/28 to F.O.C.O.S.)

/NELSON.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

NELSON
SOMALI, MATEBELE, MAORI, DOUGLAS.

Sailed from Scapa 2300/28 (A.C.O. 2315/28 to Admty.)

WIDGEON

Detailed to search for wreck position off Haisborough Light Vessel after leaving F.N. 47 at 0430/30, returning Harwich before dark. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2320/28 to C. in C., Nore)

Operations

Unidentified M/V passing through Skoden Fiord 27/11

Your 1801/27 and Admty. 1152/23/10. Report circumstances. (A.C.O.S. 1114/28 to N.O.IC. Faroes) Request you investigate and report circumstances (A.C.N.S. H. 1141/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1141/28 and N.O.i/c Faroes 1531/28. At the time in question trawler STOKE CITY had been withdrawn owing to defects and no other trawler is at present available. One will be sent within the next two days I am informing N.O.i/c Faroes that a continuous patrol must be maintained. (A.C.O.S. 2021/28 to Admty.)

Operation "Specimen"

Confirmed that operation is to be carried out. (D.N.A.D. 1359/28 to C. in C., W.A. Approved 1st S.L. in N.A.D. 1146/40 Reptd to PEGASUS)

Dover Shelled

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired about 25 rounds between 1157 and 1318 today, Thursday.
One shell fell near Trainferry Dock, one in Granville Dock, one in the town and one in the sea to Westward of Admty Pier.
Three naval ratings wounded.
Superficial damage to Lord Warden Hotel. (M.T.B. Base)
Remainder of shels fell in vicinity of R.M. Siege Battery. (V.A.Dover, 1759/28 to Admty.)

Western Channel Patrol

1. Five of 5th B.F. ordered to patrol tonight Thursday between Start Point and Land's End.
2. M.G.B's 44 and 50 in Start Bay to sink enemy rescue craft in case attack on Plymouth is renewed. (C. in C., W.A. 1810/28 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

L. 23	Proceed on main motor between Eastern Buoy of A.M. Q.Z.S. 162 and Lady Buoy. (Capt. S. 9. 0857/28 to L. 23)
PORPOISE	My 1844/27. Delete all reference to PORPOISE. (V.A.S 0932/28)
O.21	Passing Bell Rock 1400/28. Route. (Capt. S. 9. 1117/28)
USK UNIQUE UPHOLDER SEAWOLF	USK, UNIQUE and UPHOLDER are to be withdrawn from their patrol and training duties and prepared for service in the Mediterranean Each to be allowed 10 days in harbour for this purpose and the dates on which each will be ready to proceed are to be reported in due course. SEAWOLF is to be employed on submarine and A/S training until further orders and is not to proceed on patrol except in emergency. (V.A.S. 1409/28 to S. 5.) Anticipated dates for USK, UPHOLDER, UNIQUE are 10/12, 11/12, 12/12 respectively. (S.5. 1605/28)
L. 26	In Scapa Flow a.m and p.m./29. (A.C.O.S. 1536/28)
SURPRISE TIGRIS	Sailed. E.T.A. 0800/29. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1545/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
UNIQUE	Exercising off Dartmouth (C. in C., W.A. 1655/28 to Admty.)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0800/29 (V.A.S. 1754/28 and 1919/28)
H. 50	Intend to sail H. 50 escorted by VIRGINIA from Rothesay at 1300/29 E.T.A. Holyhead 1030/30 (Capt S. 7. 1921/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Air Patrols — Assessments. (C. in C., Rosyth 1950/28)

Enemy Air Activity

Plymouth — 2 Oil-Fuel tanks at Turnchapel set alight by enemy air attack, and a few bombs on Plymouth. Casualties slight so far. (C. in C., W.A. 0143/28 to Admty.)

Raided for 8 hours by waves of aircraft from 1830/27 till 0227/28. Estimated 75 to 100 aircraft, over 75 H.E., and some hundred Incendiary Bombs dropped. Many fires, all quickly put out except at Turnchapel. At R.M. Barracks, Officers Mess hit and 2 killed, 2 seriously wounded, 2 slightly. 2 Oil Tanks at Turnchapel probably a total loss. A few civilian casualties reported. (C. in C., W.A. 0757/28 to Admty.)

SATELLITE — (491 tons) Attacked by aircraft 2 miles S.W. of Runnelstone Buoy. (Plymouth 0843/28)

HARMONIC — (British 4558 tons) Attacked by aircraft in 53° 30' N., 15° 30' W., (Valentia Radio 1154/28)

Thames Estuary — Pyrotechnic Signals seen during night 27/28 (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1301/28 to C. in C., Nore)

Faroes — Junkers 88 passed over Thorshavn at 1300, heading N.E. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1314/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Mining

Harwich — D.O.Walton reports at 0427 3 Parachute Flares in sky followed by heavy explosion bearing 040° (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0428/28 to C. in C., Nore)

/MANX PRINCE....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

MANX PRINCE — (LL Trawler) Mined and sunk 2 cables North of wreck of GOTHIC (off Spurn Point) at 0505/28. 2 slight casualties. Ship was not sweeping at the time. (F.O.Humber 0952/28 to Admty) Position 130° Spurn Point Lighthouse 3½ miles. All crew rescued. 5 casualties more than slight. (Base Captain Grimsby 1112/28 to Admty)

Firth of Forth — My 1547/22/11. Following local channel from Crombie to Grangemouth is established and will be swept when possible. (C. in C., Rosyth 1101/28 to Admty.)

Thames Estuary — Group Officer in CAPRICORNUS reports detonations of mines as follows:-
One Red mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 2145/27 218° East Oaaze L.V. wreck buoy two cables position in sweep unknown.
One mine detonated by CAPRICORNUS S.A. gear at 0630/28 280° Nore L.V. Four cables relative to ship Red five degrees fours cables, bright red flash observed.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1116/28 to C. in C., Nore)

Spurn Point — At 0205 LL Trawlers exploded a Mine 100° Spurn Point Lighthouse 6½ miles (F.O. Humber 1225/28 to Admty.)

Milford Haven — In view of the enemy's intensive mining at Milford Haven request that N.C.S.O's Overseas may be instructed that ships bound to ports west of Barry are to be routed to Swansea Bay and those in convoy being detached off Scarweather.
N.C.S.O's in Western Approaches have been instructed that independently routed ships are not to be sent to Milford Haven for onward routeing (C. in C., W.A. 1248/28 to Admty.)

Harwich Close Search — Weather permitting intend to sail 5 Fleet Minesweepers S.O.HARRIER at 0745 tomorrow to close search area extending from centre line of 148 QZS for 15 cables to the eastward between 52° 1.8' N., 01° 46.3 E. and 52° 08' N., 01° 53' E., Request fighter protection from 0830 to 1600 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1449/28 to C. in C., Nore)

/Milford Haven..

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Milford Haven.	Red Mine detonated in 208 Great Castle Head Low Light 11¼ cables. One Acoustic Mine exploded by S.S. ST. PATRICK in 037° Saddle Rock, Fishguard 1½ miles. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1714/28 to Adty).
ICARUS VANOC WITCH VOLUNTEER.	ICARUS, escorted by VANOC, WITCH VOLUNTEER, leaves Portsmouth 2000/28 for operations in Baie de la Seine, returning 0800/29. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1823/28 to Adty). Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2020/28 to Adty).
Plymouth.	Since my 2309/27 one Red Mine detonated at 1702 in 275° Breakwater Light 5½ cables. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/28 to Adty).
Operation G.Q. (Little Sole Bank).	Admiralty's 1013/26. ADVENTURE is to be prepared to carry out first lay leaving Milford Haven pm/30 so as to pass through 315 Bishop Rock ten miles at 2000/30. 2. Report whether this position is suitable and which line will be laid first. 3. Short title will be G.Q. 4. Further orders will be signalled but operation will not be carried out unless weather is such that ADVENTURE can maintain twenty knots. (C.in C. W.A. 1930/28 to ADVENTURE. Your 1930/28. Position is suitable, but to give accurate navigational departure prefer 5 miles instead of ten. Propose to lay southern line first, checking positions by echo sounding on outward track on Little Sole Bank. Intend to reduce to fifteen knots for forty five minutes while actual lay is in progress. (Adventure 2329/28 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy Destroyers

Aircraft reports 1115/28, 3 enemy destroyers sighted off Belle Isle steering south. (V.A.S. 1342/28 and D.D.I.C. 1354/28)

3 expected night 28/11 operating towards English coast between Isle of Wight and Land's End. (V.A.S. 2133"28)

Air Reconnaissance

1200/27/11 Brest Lorient, St Nazaire, Nantes, Chateau Bougon Aerodrome. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1850/28 to H.Q. C.C.)

1120/28/11. Flushing, Breskens, Zeebrugge, Gravelines, Calais (P.I.U. 2209/28 to UXID)

Miscellaneous

Repatriation of 5 Fleet Air Arm Officers

Reference H.M.Minister's telegram 1058/9/10.
1. Am informed by Swedish Govt. that exchange is now agreed upon by Germans and that following F.A.A. personnel will be released from internment.
2. It is hoped to make arrangements to repatriate these officers via U.S.S.R. to Egypt. (N.A.Stockholm 1031/28 to Admty)

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BONAVENTURE	Your 1917/26. Time will not permit completion of DG (A.S. Rosyth 1014/28 to C. in C., H.F.)
PORT NAPIER Enquiry into Cause of loss by Fire	TRELAWNEY'S 1940/27. Suggest Ministry of Shipping should be represented on Board of Inquiry. If you agree, Admty will arrange (A.C.N.S. t. 1256/28 to C. in C., W.A.)
3 French T.B's	My 1537/23. Owing to defects, ships will not be able to sail this week. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1455/28 to Admty.)
H. 33	At 1745/27 while entering harbour collided with HEATHER at anchor and sustained following damage. Proceeding Oban for repair at once. Expect achieve sea-worthiness. (Commodore Western Isles, 1538/28 to Admty.)
PROGRESS	(A/P Cable) N.O.I.C. Dundee 1148/27. Request results of investigation into her abandonment may be forwarded as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. H. 1807/28 to C. in C., Rosyth)

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
W.N. 45	Escort ELLESMERE, CAPE ARGONA (N.C.S.O. Clyde Sub.Office 0931/28)
S.L. 55	Meet. Escort MORETON BAY (C. in C., W.A. to ACTIVE, ANTHONY etc.)
S.L. 56	Route (F.O.C.N.P. 1050/25)
E.N. 32	Situation 1115/28 (A.C.O.S. 1119/28)
H.X. 88 W.N. 46	Estimated will meet at about 2100/28. position (C. in C., W.A., 1434/28)
Convoy Escort Conference	Your 1153 Concur. (C. in C., Nore, 1811/28 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
CLARKIA	Your 1503/27 (re ships ex H.X. 85 ordered by unknown vessel to Clyde) Vessel was CLARKIA (Captain D. Londonderry 1313/28 to C. in C., W.A.)
OSLO FJORD	Admty. 1633/26. Request arrange destroyer to arrive Clyde a.m. 29/11 to escort to Tyne (C. in C., H.F. 1114/28 to R.A.(D))
P.C. 74	My 2049/26 (Falmouth closed. Take Convoy to Milford Haven) and Admty 1726/20. P.C. 74 may be retained until 30/11 to escort these tankers to Dartmouth.
S.L. 57	CANTON to act as ocean escort (C. in C., S.A., 1259N/28) CANTON arrived 1800/28 (S.O.I. Freetown 1817/28)
S.L. 88	Code words H.X. 88 Broom 2, H.X. 88 A Jumbo 2, H.X. 88 B Canon 2, H.X. 88BM Piano 2. (D.T.D. 1238/28 to BROKE, SALADIN)
O.B. 251	Sailed 1240/28. Escort CASTLETON, VANSITTART, GENTIAN, VANGUISHER, VISCOUNT (N.C.S.O Liverpool 1325/28)
A.M.C's Accommodation	Your 2335/27 (re ESPERANCE BAY) only accommodation available is in crew space which accounts for small numbers. Lack of accommodation is due to buoyant ballast and sealed holds. (F.O.C.N.P. 1015/28 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 28.11.40. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Guns for Coast Defence. My 1227/19. Request report date anticipated guns will be mounted and rough positions selected.
(Sect: to V.C.N.S. 0008/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

3 French Ships Intercepted by CANTON. Your 0038/28 and 0220/28. Ships to be sent to Freetown under armed guard. Ensure French ships keep W/T silence. Proceed independently to Freetown yourselves. (C.in C. S.A. 0341N/28 to CANTON). My 0341/28. If escorted by French warships not to be interfered with (C.in C. S.A. 0359N/28 to CANTON)
CANTON reports intercepting 3 French Merchant Ships in 005° 04'N., 012° 09' W course 280°. Being sent in under armed guard. CANTON required for convoy at Freetown proceeding independently after placing armed guard on board. (C.in C. S.A. 0401/28 to CUMBERLAND).

428. My 0401/28 CANTON reports these ships as Merchant Ships VENDOME, ST.LOUISE escorted by sloop L.A.SURPRISE they have been allowed to proceed in accordance with standing instructions.
(C.in C. S.A. 1045/28 to Adty).

MARRAKECH. Reported left Casablanca 26/11 for Dakar with 40, 16 " shells for RICHELIEU.
(N.A. Washington, 1724/28 to Adty).

VILLE DU HAVRE (Intercepted, Dakar to Madagascar.) Tug approaching thought to be armed Naval tug BUFFLE, if so no action with reference to tug. If you reach VILLE DU HAVRE before tug place armed guard. If tug already escorting ship remain in company and report. (C.in C. S.A. 1043/28 to DRAGON)
My 1339N/26 and my 1043/28. Is BUFFLE to be treated as Naval Vessel and if with ship as escorting her. Berne List shows her Warship. Probably tug will report by W/T to Dakar. (C.in C. S.A. 1101N/28 to Adty).
Orders to DRAGON, your 1043/28, concur. Decision required in your 1101/28 will be given when DRAGON's report received.
(D.O.D.(F) 1700/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

Position 001 23'N., 020 30'W., intercepted VILLE DU HAVRE Dakar to Madagascar and placed armed guard on board 1620. Has general cargo on board and 24 French passengers and lost her propellers. The BUFFLE arriving at 1700 required 100 tons of coal which I am allowing VILLE DU HAVRE to supply. Tug states Naval vessel

/and ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DU HAVRE Intercepted. (Contd.)

and refuses to tow VILLE DU HAVRE to Freetown. Am remaining in company and taking no further action pending reply from Admiralty to your 1101/28.
(DRAGON 1746/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 1746/28. Stop Coaling Tug pending further instruction from Admiralty find out what endurance tug now has.
(C.in C. S.A. 2015/28 to DRAGON).

Your 1746/28. You are not to tell Tug that she may tow VILLE DU HAVRE to Dakar. Inform tug that she may tow the ship towards Dakar. Armed Guard is to remain on board. Further instruction will follow.
(D.O.D.(F) 2352/28 to DRAGON).

VENDEMIAIRE. CHARLES L.D. AVANT. GARDE. VILLE DE TAMATAVE. EASTERN SWORD.

Tankers VENDEMIAIRE from Martinique 24/11 CHARLES L.D., from Martinique 20/11 Maryport AVANT-GARDE from St. Pierre 20/11 all bound for Casablanca and VILLE DE TAMATAVE from Madagascar 9/11 for France sighted Cape Point 19/11 should be sent to Gibraltar if intercepted and if unescorted. EASTERN SWORD from Martinique 20/11 for Casablanca should be sent to Freetown if intercepted.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1323/28 to S. and A. N.A. Station).

Force "L".

Your 1721/26. It is regretted that no other cruiser can be made available.
(D.O.D.(F) 2343/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

French African Coast, Navigation.

Precis of circular intercepted at Bermuda to all units of French Fleet concerning navigation off West Africa dated 22/10.
(C.in C. A. & W.I. 1004/28 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.

FRANCONIA.

Your 2311/23, your 2109/26 FRANCONIA will be ready sail p.m. 30/11. Intended keep her sail with RAMILLIES and ARGUS 1/12 or 2/12. Anticipate sailing ROYAL SOVEREIGN for Halifax with this force.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1202/28 to Adty).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

My 2313/28 (re date sail for Halifax). Can a definite date be given.
(D.O.D.(F) 1321/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

A/S Patrols. Daily Summary. (200 Group, 1945/28 to Air. Min.)

UTMOST. Admty. 1650/13. UTMOST complete p.m./28. Intend sailing for Malta p.m./29. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1242/28).

South Atlantic.

Convoy W.S.4.B. Support by CUMBERLAND (see Vichy French 27/11) must not delay W.S.4.B. Report whether necessary to withdraw CUMBERLAND. (D.O.D.(F) 0022/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUMBERLAND. Position, course and speed 003 °28'N., 015° 31'W., 010° 16 knots. E.T.A. outer end Freetown searched Channel 0600/29/11. (CUMBERLAND, 0830/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

Suspicious Vessel. Disguised M/V raider. 8° 30'N., 15° 05'W suspicious vessel in sight for over 1 hour apparently stopped, picked up by searchlight from another craft twice. (Kumasian, 0415/28).

KOSMOS. Your 1214/27. No information (D.D.I.C. 0919/28 to S.O.(I) Freetown)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Arrived Table Bay 27/11. Fuelling from tanker so far impossible due to swell. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1025Z/28 to C.in C. E.I.)

ARETHUSA. (S.S.) Your 2016/26 (ARETHUSA grounded). Report was forwarded with my u50/060/19/11 despatched 23/11 to Adty. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1028B/28 to Adty.)

FAUSTINO R.SAN PEDRO. Sailed Fernando Po 22/11 for Las Palmas. If intercepted to be sent into Freetown (C.in C. 1106/28 to HERMES, DRAGON, etc.)

KANIMBLA. My 1118/21 (arrival at Durban) for a.m./20/11 read p.m.1/12. (C.in C. E.I. 1152Z/28 to KANIMBLA).

MOST SECRET.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoys. S.L. and S.L.85. — Departure 28/11 BRIDGEWATER and Trawlers SPANIARD and BENGALI as local escorts. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1655/28 to Adty).

R.N. Air Station. — Your 0219/12/10. As necessary to base a carrier at Freetown to deal with raiders in S.A. establishment of R.N. air Station at R.A.F. Station Hastings is of great importance and cannot be deferred. (Hd. of M. 1954/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

HELENE. — German-owned, reported making for Angola. (C.in C. S.A. 2121N/28). See German Merchant Ships.

French Air Stations. — My 2037/25/11 para two. Further intercepted signals indicate that French side of air port at Villa Cisneros Rio de Oro Is. being closed down. From same authentic source it appears air France organisation at Praia, Cape Verde Is., being reduced to a care and maintenance basis.
(C.in C. S.A. 2313N/28 amended 1017/29).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation "Collar".
Action with Italian Forces

Combined services report Malta up to 1700/27, All times G.M.T.

R.A.F. Report

0636 to 1527 Sunderland patrolled area between Cape Bon- Galita Island- Sardinia and Sicilly, 0833 sighted RAMILLIES and escort position 340° Galita Island 23 miles Sighted ARK ROYAL and remainder of Fleet 37° 37' N., 07° 48' E., at 0902. Signalled position to RAMILLIES as requested by that ship. Enemy Fleet six cruisers eight destroyers located position 38° 09'N 08° 16' E., course 60° Speed 12 knots.

Fleet Report

Signalled position to RENOWN by visual signal at 0945. 1020 hours action commenced at 18 miles. 1027 one enemy cruiser hit. 1040 enemy Fleet divided and steered N. E. and N.W. 1130 action ceased. 1155 two French M/V's CHAMPOLLION and MARIETTA (PACHA?) position 38° 19' N., 08° 30' E., course 320° speed 10 knots- reported to own Fleet. 1201 Italian Destroyer damaged in position 30° 14' N., 08° 28' E., well down by stern. 1208 three Italian Cruisers and two Italian Destroyers position 38° 30' N., 08° 53' E., steering towards damaged Destroyer. 1240 British Fleet position 37° 48' N., 08° 56' E., course S. E. being bombed by 10 S. 79s. No hits seen. 0800 to 1106 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Palermo, Trapani, Castel Vetrano Aerodrome.
Reported Palermo two cruisers two or three destroyers one liner 10,000 tons 5 M/V's 7,000 tons 7 M/V's 6,000 tons.
Trapani one cruiser and one M.V.
At 0855 two torpedo boats position 37° 22' N 12° 45' E., course 60° speed 27 knots
0840 1300 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto reported outer harbour three battle-ships three cruisers..
One battleship partly sunk near southern jetty, one battleship close in shore N.E. with nest and small ships round her. One LITTORIO in middle of harbour nets and three destroyers round her. Inner harbour four cruisers and about 15 Destroyers.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1000/28)

Convoy

COLLAR Convoy now approaching Malta.
(C. in C., Med., 1101/28 to Admty.)

/Force H.....

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation "Collar"
Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

Force H Report

My 1530/28 Part One.
Operation "Collar" proceeded without incident until 1000/27 at which time forces B and F were in company with Convoy in position 037° 41' N., 007° 27' E., on an easterly course. Force D approximately 90 miles to the east on westerly course.
(ii) At 1005 report of five cruisers five destroyers bearing 045° 60 miles steering 255° received from one of ARK ROYAL's aircraft. Further report of two battleships seven destroyers 040° 75 miles course 225° received 10 minutes later.

Convoy Detached

(iii) Convoy was detached to the south east with DESPATCH and two destroyers, joined later by COVENTRY. ARK ROYAL detached with two destroyers. Remainder of forces B and F proceeded maximum speed to concentrate with Force D.
(S.O. Force H., 1500/28)

Enemy sighted
Action joined

My 1530/28. Part 2.
(iv) On sighting RAMILLIES course altered to close enemy. 4 enemy cruisers sighted hull down at 1207. Fire opened by both sides at 1221. Enemy made smoke directly fire was opened and retired to North East at high speed.
(v) Enemy battleship one LITTORIO and one CAVOUR accompanied by one or 2 cruisers sighted to eastward of cruisers at 1250. These opened fire on our cruisers, who made away but resumed chase when battleships turned away. (S.O.Force H. 1510/28)

My 1530/28 Part 3.
(vi) At 1310 battleships were still outside the range of RENOWN and RAMILLIES had dropped well astern. No sign or report of any damage to enemy. In reply to signal C.S. 18 reported little hope of catching cruisers.

Chase Ended

(vii) As our forces were now 60 miles from convoy and 30 miles from enemy coast, I decided to cease the chase in order to cover convoy and establish contact before dark.
(viii) Subsequently report was received of cruiser stopping and on fire 10 miles off enemy coast. In view of consideration referred to above and necessity for whole

/force.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation "Collar"
Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

Enemy Damaged

force to support any action to close this ship I reluctantly decided to continue the withdrawal, instructing ARK ROYAL to endeavour to finish her off. Further damage to enemy reported subsequently, summarized later. (S.O.Force H., 1515/28)

Enemy Air Attacks

My 1530 Part 4.
(ix) At 1435 Fleet was attacked by 10 bombers at 12,000 feet escorted by fighters. Fulmars intercepted and caused some aircraft to jettison bombs. Bombing most inaccurate nearest bombs 3,000 yards heavy ships. One Fulmar failed to return.

ARK ROYAL Bombed

(x) Attack was repeated at 1640 by 15 bombers in 3 waves. Fighters caused a few aircraft to jettison bombs but most accurate attack carried out on ARK ROYAL who was completely obscured by 30 bombs nearest at 10 yards. She emerged with all guns firing furiously.

Convoy Rejoined

(xi) Rejoined convoy at 1720 and units joined respective forces. Force F parted company at 1830 and proceeded through Skerki Channel. Force B steamed short distance to North East and then shaped course to west. (S.O.Force H., 1520/28)

Enemy Damage

My 1530 Part 5.
12. Damage inflicted on enemy observed by aircraft believed to be as follows:-
(a) One cruiser (probably 8 inch) observed on fire aft burning furiously and stopped (vide para 8)
(b) One destroyer (Italian destroyer GRECALE class) observed stopped, down by stern and listing heavily.
(c) One destroyer stopped with slight list.

F.A.A. Attacks

13. Result of F.A.A. Attacks as follows:-
(a) 11 Swordfish attacked battleships.
One torpedo hit observed on battleship of Italian Battleship LITTORIO class.
(b) 9 Swordfish attacked unit of three 8 inch cruisers.
One almost certain hit on rear ship, Italian Cruiser BOLZANO also leading ship observed to reduce speed.
(c) 7 Skua dive-bombed unit of three CONDOTTIERI Class. Two very near misses, one of which apparently damaged boiler room. (S.O.Force H., 1525/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation "Collar"
Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

BERWICK Damaged

My 1530/28. Part 6 Final.
14. Damage to own ships. Two eight inch hits on BERWICK. Y turret out of action other minor structural damage. Casualties. Obe Officer six ratings killed, two ratings seriously wounded, seven ratings slightly wounded.
15. All our aircraft returned except one Fulmar referred to in paragraph 9, and one Fulmar crashed on landing and lost overboard. One CANT Z 506 and one R O 43 shot down.
16. Composition of enemy force believed to be two battleships, four eight-inch cruisers three six- inch cruisers, 12 destroyers. (S.O.Force H., 1530/28)

My 1530, para 8.
Skuas mentioned in para 13 (c) were sent to attack damaged cruiser but failed to locate ship. (S.O.Force H., 1930/28)

Enemy Position

My 1530/28.
Final reconnaissance reported enemy main force proceeding north along east coast of Sardinia.
Paras 12 and 13. Request early air reconnaissance establish if any damaged ships are at Cagliari. (S.O.Force H., 1935/28, to V.A.Malta)

BERWICK Repairs

My 1530/28.
It is important that repairs to BERWICK should be made good at Gibraltar if possible. (D.O.D. (F) 2344/28 to S.O.Force H.)

Force F.

Did Force F arrive safely at rendezvous? (S.O.Force H., 2134/28 to V.A.Malta)

Your 2134/28. Yes. 2 M.T. Ships, HOTSPUR, DECOY, GRIFFIN, GLOXINIA now in harbour (V.A.Malta 2355/28)

MOST SECRET.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.E. Air Report. — Operational Summary No. 171 to 1200/28. No Naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1148/28)

NARVAL. — Orders to (V.A. Malta, 0931/28). Cancel my 0931/28. NARVAL delayed by about 4 days by defective air compressor. (V.A. Malta 1747/28).

Air Targets. — C.in C. Med's 1545/18. Re Leghorn and other potential targets in Italy. (D. of P. to C.in C. Med and S.O. Force H, 1558/28) See Med. Vol.

Spain. — Bi-weekly report. Situation will be very serious unless immediate supply of wheat forthcoming. (N.A. Madrid, 1735/28).

Movements. — Summary. No.171. Chiefly Submissions. (C.in C. Med. 2231/28).

Greece. — Situation (M.A. Athens to W.O. 1700/28).

Defence of Alexandira. — Asking for details of oil for defence with reference to vulnerability of Alexandria oil tanks. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1805/28)

Italy. — Internal morale, situation. (Madrid, 2017/28 to D.N.I.)

Submarine Sanctuary, RORQUAL. — Alexandria submarines Sanctuary will be in force from 0700 to 1000 on 29/11 and exercises Santuary within 5 miles 031° 19' N., 029° 09' E., from 1000 to 15000 on 29/11 for RORQUAL substituted. All times G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0709/28 to Med., Fleet.)

BUCEGI. — Admty. 1837/19. Crew of BUCEGI leaves Haifa today 28/11 for repatriation (?excepting) a C & M. party which will be repatriated as soon as nucleus of new crew arrives. Actual numbe left on board, 2 Officers, 1 engineer, 2 firemen and 9 sailors etc.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa 1010/28 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TRITON. Your 1915/5. (Bring into force condition A) Have instructed TRITON that condition B is to be brought into force crossing latitude 040° North.
(V.A. Malta, 1141/28 to Capt: S.1.)

Air Operation. A.572. 28/11 most secret ref: your operation instruction number 10. Did not leave today owing to state of weather. D. one day now 29/11 weather permitting. 517 Squadron, 1012/28 to H.Q. Middle East).

Enemy Aircraft. A large formation of aircraft detected by R D/F is approaching the Fleet bearing 000 degrees distance 33 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 0904/28, to Med. Fleet).
Following has been read:-
Addressed Mediterranean Fleet from N.O.I.C. Malta. Negative my 0904.
(Nore W/T 0947/28).

Malta Raid. Air Raid on Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0959/28 to Med. Fleet).

Following received.
Mediterranean Fleet. From N.O.I.C. Malta.
Negative my 0959. (Nore W/T 1019/28).

Following received. Addressed Med. Fleet.
From N.O.I.C. Malta. Air Raid on Malta.
(Nore W/T 1041/28).

Following received. Med. Fleet from
N.O.I.C. Malta. Air Raid on Malta.
(Nore W/T 1055/28).

Following received.
Addressed Med. Fleet from N.O.I.C. Malta.
Negative 1055./.
(Nore W/T 1110/28).

Following has been read:
Addressed Malta. W/T. From GLASGOW.
Enemy are bombing.
(Nore W/T 1204/28).

Enemy Units. Position of enemy.
3 Battleships.

MOST SECRET.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Units. (Contd.)

3 Battleships. 5 Cruisers. Unknown number of destroyers. Unknown number of Merchant vessels Taranto.
(Nore W/T 1205/28).

Following has been read.
Addressed TRIUMPH from N.O.I.C. Malta.
Air raid approaching Malta.
(Nore W/T 1329/28).

PATRIA Sabotage.

My 2130/25. Final muster indicated 254 refugees at present unaccounted for but believed that a certain number were smuggled from ambulances. Only 1 member of the crew missing and 1 British Police guard.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa 1114/28).

Roumanian ships.

Suggestion again received Roumania State Line (S M R) anxious to sell Liners TRANSYLVANIA, BESSARABIA, and Motor Ships SULINA, BALCIC, CAVARNA all three new 3,600 Gross 14 knots.

Possible to arrange for second transfer flag, or to work ships for British account under Panama Flag. If ships remain in Black Sea they will be certainly used by Germans.
(N.A. Angora, 1225/28 to C.in C. Med.)

Potential A.M.C's.

Ref: telegram 1225 28/11 from naval Attache, alternatively it has been suggested that possible to induce S.M.R. sail the two which are suitable A.M C. for Salonica on pretext of picking up refugees thus giving you an opportunity to seize them at sea. Should this line be pursued?
(Wolffson 1226/28 to C.in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT.

Leave patrol as requisite arriving Malta dawn on 4/12. Route.
(Capt: S., 1413/28 to UPRIGHT).

MOST SECRET.

28.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Report. Malta combined services report up to 1700/28 all times G.M.T.

Enemy Intelligence. 0753 to 1314 Glenn Martin recco Taranto, Messina, Catania, Syracuse, Augusta Taranto Harbour 3 battleships 7 cruisers 5 destroyers, Catania nothing seen, Messina unobserved due to low clouds. Augusta 9 flying boats no shipping. Just outside Port, Heading North, 5 MVS 3000 tons no escort. Syracuse nothing seen, but balloon barrage sighted in harbour. 0940 to 1230 two Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A.N.A.S. patrol ahead of convoy to Malta. Nothing seen. No naval or military items.

Malta Raids. Part 2. Raids on Malta. 2155 to 2217 and 0 raids 0608-1250, No damage.
(H.Q. Malta, 1800/28, 1801/28).

Air Report, Greece. Operational Summary Number 33. A.M. 28/11.
3 Blenheims bombed Sarande where shipping had been reported including destroyers.
1 big ship seen but no hits observed but wharves bombed. Several destroyers which were bombarding Corfu disturbed by arrival of our aircraft and fled, 8 aircraft to Durazzo for high level attack target obscured by low clouds 6 aircraft dropped bombs all in target area. (H.Q. R.A.F., Greece 1830/28).

U/B Report. Two separate sources report Submarine between NAXOS and (?TUILKONI) at 1900/28 proceeding towards ICARIA. (Base Ship, Alexandria, 2300/28, to C.in C. Med.)

French Ships, Egypt. French ships are now in general requisitioned by British Gov. and accordingly they and their crews are given exactly the same treatment as British crews. French crews receive British rates and terms of service.
The Marine Marchande Francaise Libre advises the British Ministry of Shipping and works in close collaboration with it in all matters relating to ex-French ships.
(D.T.D. 1850/28 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Operation "Rope"	DORSETSHIRE 1445/18/11. Am informed that following are results of bombardment (details) (C. in C., E.I., 0502Z/28 to Admty.)
SAGITTA	Arrived 0510Z/28. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 0732Z/28)
TARANTULA CRICKET CAPETOWN	Cancel my 0744/27. TARANTULA probably ready leave Singapore 5/12, now intended CRICKET remain Penang until joined by TARANTULA. Both s hips will subsequently be escorted to Colombo in company. CAPETOWN proceeds to arrive Colombo a.m/ 30/11. (C. in C., E.I. 0756Z/28 to CAPETOWN)
Bombardment of Italian Somaliland Coast	S.N.O. Red Sea 27/11 refers to bombardment of Italian Somaliland Coast (place and position) My 0432/20/11 refers. Middle East successively informed. (C. in C., E.I., 1000Z/28 to Admty.)
Local Defence Boat	Your 1013/13 Local Defence Boat building Durban will be allocated to port in E. Africa to be selected by C. in C., E.I. R.N.V.R. (S.A.) crew should be provided. (Head of M., 1733/28 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)
Convoy B.N. 9½	Arrived Suez 28/11. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1149/28)
VILLE HAVRE VILLE VERDUN	Message from Governor of Mauritius to S. of S. for Colonies 367, Repeated to S.O.(I) Capetown. Though it is important to prevent exports from Madagascar it is far more important to frustrate importations. Cables indicate departure from Marseilles VILLE HAVRE and VILLE VERDUN for Madagascar one is expected to leave November 29/. Can anything be done Gibralts or elsewhere to prevent ships reaching destination as critical period Madagascar expected to commence February? (S.O.I. Capetown, 1023B/28 to Admty for information)

/COLOMBO.....

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd

COLOMBO
CARTHAGE

COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa p.m. 30/11 and proceed to Durban to arrive p.m/6/12 COLOMBO is subsequently to escort convoy C.M.7. leaving Durban p.m/8/12 to Mombasa. CARTHAGE is to boiler clean on arrival at Durban on 3/12 and to escort convoy C.M. 7 to 018° S. (C. in C., E.I., 1156Z/28 to CARTHAGE, COLOMBO)

Pilgrims

Counter propaganda to Italian offer of facilities to Pilgrim Ships is undesirable on lines such as (a) Italians can offer no facilities whatever (b) on no account should dates etc., be given to enemy (c) pilgrim ships can only be run by us because we command seas. Request authorities concerned be approached on this matter. (C. in C., E.I. 1202Z/28 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Greek Ships

If Greek ships JOANNIS YIANNIS or MAROUSIO LOGOTHETI are sent into a British port for examination similar action as in my 0908/7 is to be taken. Admty.1311/4 refers. (C. in C., E.I. 1404/28)

Air
Report

Daily Intelligence Summary No 169 and Operational summary for 24 hours ending 1500 28/11.
0900 6 Blenheims attacked A.A. vessel Assab Harbour half mile N.W. Ummpal Bahar Island 6 near misses possibly causing damage. Line of apparent lighters stretching north pier to Ummpal Bahar Island suggesting boom defence. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1735/28 to Air Min.)

China

Dutch Staff
Talks

Preliminary Report (C. in C., China, 0141Z/28)

Your 1715/23. Matter has been discussed with Dutch Staff Officers now in Singapore Aerodrome at Sabang is at present too small for Hudsons. Dutch Officers think their authorities would prefer co-operating Dutch aircraft which was in fact done when a raider was recently in Bay of Bengal. (C. in C., China, 0801Z/28 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

CABLE ENTERPRISE

Admty 1655/8 (Sailing for Trinidad after repairs) No news of CABLE ENTERPRISE. Four loops laid (details)
Admty. 1341/22/10 to Trinidad only instructing 7th loop not to be laid in Venezuelan waters until further orders. Consider this most likely point of entry for enemy vessels. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1051/28)

Portuguese and Contraband

Reference recent report of opening of a regular service between Lisbon and New York by Portuguese Campanhia Colonial de Navegacao, suggested now that contraband control is in operation at Bermuda, pressure might be brought in to bear on this and the numerous other Portuguese and Spanish lines operating on this route to induce their ships to call at Bermuda for examination of cargo of mails and passengers. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1302/28 to Admty.)

PASTEUR

Your 2325/23 re T.C. 8. Military request confirmation that 3100 can be properly accommodated for North Atlantic passage in PASTEUR. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1502/28 to Admty.)

BERGENSFJORD T.C. 8.

My 1921/22. BERGENFJORD has accommodation for 646 if you approve delay sailing T.C. 8. As accommodation is now requested for approximately 8,000 military and air force personnel could additional ship or ships be allocated for T.C. 8. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1748/28 to Admty.)

LACONIA

Your 2212/19 and D. of S.T. 1953/25 and in view of N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0952/26. I am assuming there are now no special westbound escort duty required of LACONIA in view of inability to steam 20 knots. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1644/28 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

U.S. 7. Details. Route. Escort CANBERRA and PERTH (D.N.O., Fremantle 0101Z/28) CANBERRA left Fremantle to join U.S. 7, 0107/28. (A.C.N.B. 1153Z/28) PERTH and CANBERRA escorting U.S. 7 left Fremantle 2152Z/27 for Colombo (A.C.N.B., 1155Z/28)

Suspicious Vessel — Master of Norwegian MARINA reports sighting vessel 20/11 037° 35' S., 123° E steering 096° distance 12/14 miles one funnel amidships 14-16 knots, cannot identify. (A.C.N.B. 0530/28 to C. in C's, E.I., China, S.A. amended 0809/28)

Raider — My 1221/27 re raider which sunk PORT BRISBANE. Correct description of raider: Hull black, boat painted light colour. (A.C.N.B., 0626Z/28)

DOMINION MONARCH — DOMINION MONARCH is to be sailed as soon as ready for Aukland to load cargo thence as ordered by N.Z.N.B. Wellington. Report anticipated date of arrival at Aukland. (A.C.N.B. 0821Z/28 to Capt. Supt., Sydney etc.,)

Shipping Routes — Following routeing instructions have been issued. Channel. In order to deny enemy the opportunity of attacking shipping at a point outside range of shore based air-craft but before full dispersion has been effected all ships are to be routed so that full dispersion has been obtained before reaching longitude 112° East on departure from Fremantle. Full dispersion is to be maintained by ships to Cape Ports until reaching a longitude as far West as possible. The same principle is to be applied to ships leaving for and arriving at Indian Ports. Ships leaving Australian Ports for New Zealand and American Ports are to be routed so as to be fully dispersed 200 miles from coast both on departure and on arrival.
(A.C.N.B. 0853Z/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

New Zealand

RANGITANE
Wreckage

My 1159/27. TAI PING YANG has arrived Aukland. Large quantity of small wreckage and a large patch of oil six miles by two miles and still coming up have been located in position of RANGITANE distress message. Vessel must therefore be presumed lost. (N.Z.N.B. 07352/28)

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

GERMANIA	Arrived 0400/25 fully loaded (Las Palmas 1045/28)
KARNAK	Admty. 0449/25. Arrived Bilbao from Vigo 26/11 (V.A.(S) 1057/28)
LA PLATA	Has taken about 5 tons provisions (Acting Consul Vigo 1620/28)
IDARWALD RHEIN	My telegrams 16/11 Grounds for believing preparing to attempt to leave probably in next 24 hours. (Consul General Mexico City, T.G.I. 1625/28) Tampico reports obtained clearance for Spain, probably sail 28/11 (S.O.(I) Kingston 1644/28) (At Tampico) Applied for clearance papers 28/11 recently IDARWALD stated she was bound for Vigo (N.A.Washington 1725/28)
HAMELIN	(At Vera Cruz) Has ordered supplies for 30 days but has not yet taken on fuel oil (N.A.Washington 1725/28)
AMALIE	S.O.S. intercepted, off the Frisian Islands at 1047/28, (D.O.R./29/11)
ERIKA FRITGEN	Following received:- N.C.O.Portsmouth from Niton Radio. 0947 G.T.M. D E D G H N ERIKA FRITGEN to Nordeich Radio. S.O.S. SHA POSN HUBERT GAT BEI TONNE (ends) (C. in C., Portsmouth 0950/28)
MONTEVIDEO MACIA WINDHUK BOLLWERK NORDERNEY	ITAPE itinerary, leave Santos 27/11 Rio de Janeiro 30/11 Victoria 1/12 Bahia 3/12 Pernambuco 5/12 Para 10/12 has on board 9 German officers and men ex MONTEVIDEO MACIO at Bahia 6 more ex WINDHUK for BOLLWERK at Bahia and 6 more ex WINDHUK for NORDERNEY at Para. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1313/28 to Admty)
MADRID	Further to my 1740/25, total quantity coal bunkers taken by MADRID 1282 tons. CHERCA has also been supplied with approx. 300 tons of coal both of which ex Spanish ship ARRAIZ. German passenger aircraft accommodation for about 40 passengers painted black 4 motors arrived Gando Aerodrome p.m./27 also German 3 motor passenger aircraft painted black arrived today. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1705/28)

/HELENE.....

MOST SECRET

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

HELENE

Small auxiliary schooner HELENE German owned whose transfer to Liberian flag is not recognised, sailed from Monrovia 23/11. Reported to have picked up 7 Germans near Cape Palmas area 25/11 and probably so far making for Angola. (C. in C. S.A.2121N/28 to C.S.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RECCA

My 2340/25 Havana reports further indication may sail shortly. (S.O(I) Kingston, 0852/28)
Following from Navy Department: From Havana 26/11. Learned that the Italian ship RECCA which has been at Havana for several months has recently loaded sufficient oil to put to sea. On 25/11 her funnel was painted black and her name and flag painted out. (N.A.Washington 1217/28)

CHERCA

See MADRID, German Merchant Ships.

FRANCO MARTELLI

Tanker FRANCO MARTELLI at Pernambuco has paid attachment charges on ship and is making other preparations indicating intention to leave port.

ATLAS

From Tampico. Tanker ATLAS moved 27/11 to anchorage in stream near Orinoco. (N.A.Washington, 1725/28)

MOST SECRET

28.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

DIPLOMAT
(Torpedoed 27/11)

Request you will sail tug SALVONIA with all despatch to assistance of DIPLOMAT in position 55° 45' N., 11° 57' W., at 2334/27. Tug ASSURANCE also proceeding. (F.O.I.C. 0013/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

Sunderland reports four life boats in position 056° 02' noth, 012° 15' West at 0100 28th/11. (C. in C., W.A. 0144/28 to WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, CAMPANULA)

My 2355/27 and 0144/28. Position should be 055° 56' N., 012° 12' W., (C. in C., W.A. 0500/28)

Your 0144, my 2359/27. In view of distance neither CAMPANULA nor FLEUR DE LYS are practicable. Weather. (FLEUR DE LYS 0510/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Am approaching position searching for survivors. +Asdic installation out of action due to recent weather Corvette not due for several hours. Intend taking survivors to Londonderry and refuel. (WILD SWAN 1001/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Sailed SALVONIAN in accordance with F.O.i/c Greenock's 0015/28 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0220/28)

Position of DIPLOMAT at 0100 today was 55° 56' 5" N., 12° 12' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to ASSURANCE and SALVONIA)

MOUNT ATHOS

(Greek 3578 tons, in Convoy O.B. 248.) Following has been read: SSSS 54.30 N., 15.25 W., MOUNT ATHOS torpedoed. (Scapa W/T 0643/28)

SEAMAN is to proceed with despatch to assistance of MOUNT ATGOS in position 54° 30' N., 15° 25' W., at 0745. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0807/28 to SEAMAN)

MOUNT ATHOS torpedoed in 054° 30' N., 015° 25' W., Investigate. (C. in C., W.A. 0808/28 to FOLKESTONE)

Area searched. No sign of GLENMOOR MOUNT ATHOS or survivors. Am remaining in area in hope of making up to submarine as her future activities are reported. Request details of shipping that may be expected to pass through area. Weather report. (FOLKESTONE, 1600/28)

/RINGHORN.....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

RINGHORN

British, ex-Norwegian, 1298 tons (dispersed from Convoy O.B. 248) Folloing has been read: Submarine attack signal 55.29 N., 18.01 W., RINGHORN. (Plymouth 0849/28)

Detach one ship to investigate RINGHORN's report of U-Boat position 055° 29' N., 018° 01' W., Ship detached to join convoy H.X. 89 before dark unless un contact with U-Boat. (C. in C., W.A., 1016/28 to WARWICK and WANDERER)

C. in C., W.A.,1016. I expect to reach this position at noon. (WANDERER 1101/28 to WARWICK)

Your 1016. Nothing seen of RINGHORN but spoke Commodore of O.B. 248 in TEMPLE INN proceeding westward all well. Am making for rendezvous with H.X. 89. (WANDERER 1620/28)

S/M Raider Submarine still on surface and dropping astern. (VRCB (No Signification 1137/28)

CHARLES F MEYER

Following has been read S/M Raider signal SSSS 55.33 N., 8.47 W., Submarine. (CHARLES F MEYER T.O.R. 1210)

Send one destroyer to attack S/M reported on the surface in position 055° 33' N., 008° 47' W., at 1147. (C. in C., W.A. 1242/28 to HAVELOCK)

CHARLES F MEYER
BRUSE

Your 1740/28. Instruct CHARLES F. MEYER to proceed alone to Rothesay where he will be boarded by Liverpool and Glasgow salvage representative. You are to proceed with despatch to assistance of tug SEAMAN towing BRUSE in position 55° 45' N., 08° 41 W., at 1430 steering 106° 1 knot. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2055/28 to THAMES)

Following has been read. de GPK.
SSSS 15 miles East of Inistrahull, CHARLES F MEYER torpedoed. (Plymouth 2145/28)

Following has been read from C.G.O.E. (Undecypherable) SSSS Cancel my 2145 re CHARKES F MEYER (Plymouth W/T., T.O.R. 2017/28)

/BRADFYNE....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.22.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd

BRADFYNE
(torpedoed 22/11)

Four survivors Ex SS BRADFYNE, British, 4740 G.R.T. landed Belfast p.m./27 having been rescued from lifeboat on 25/11 by Norwegian SS NORSE KING. Remainder of crew of forty-three unaccounted for. Ref W.A.C.O. 0191.
(A) SS BRADFYNE 93 ships in Convoy S.C.11
(B) 22nd/11 2230, position uncertain
(C) (D) & (E) Not known.
(F) Vessel not seen to sink
(G) Apprentice Buchholtz.
(H) See (C) (D) and (E) above. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1215/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

ANTEN
(torpedoed 23/11)

C. in C., W.A. 1311/23 and 1846/27, Master of ANTEN has been interviewed and confirms condition of his ship was as stated. He was third ship astern of Commodore and never left him until torpedoed at 0700/23 (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1658/28 to Admty.)

BRUSE
(torpedoed 23/11)

Following received from tug SEAMAN. While proceeding to position indicated in your 0807 today Thursday made contact with forward part of BRUSE 1300 in position 055° 45' N., 008° 41' W., connected at 1430 and proceeding towards Clyde course 106° speed 1 knot require assistance. 1820/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2001/28)

LISIEUX

BERNHARD, following intercept (begins) Saved one lifeboat from LISIEUX with crew on board, now looking for another boat with one man in it. (Ends) (Valentia Radio 0751/28)

LISIEUX was in mid-Atlantic in Convoy S.C. 13. No further details. (D.OR. 29/11)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0743 — A.F. message 54.30 N., 15.25 W at 0643 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0822/28)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 2 in N.W. Approaches of which one is about to leave patrol
1 in about 49° N., 14° W., outward bound to N.W. Approaches.
German- 1 in vicinity of 50° N., 10° W., probably bound for Lorient. May be the one estimated yesterday north of N. Rona homeward bound northabout.
1 in 54° 30' N., 15° 25' W at 0743/28.
1 in 55° 33' N., 8° 47' W., at 1147/28
1 in 56° 39' N., 12° 08' W., at 1215/27
1 was between 53° N., and 55° N., 17° W and 23° W at 1135/27, and may possibly be bound for Lorient.
1 in 55° 29' N., 18° 01' W., at 0950/28
1 in area 56° N., 21° W., ro 23° W., (D.D.I.C. 1245/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

MACKAY.
Proposed as
16th D.F.
Leader

Understood that Admiralty policy is to replace V and W class destroyers in East Coast by HUNT Class as latter become available. It is most desirable that a leader fitted with A.S.V. should be available for the 16th and 21st flotillas, and that D. 16 and D. 21 should be afloat with their staffs.
No accommodation in HUNT class destroyers for Captain "D" or any staff officers. Since the withdrawal of MALCOLM, Capt. D.16 has been accommodated ashore with his staff. This not entirely satisfactory. Request consideration be given to allocating MACKAY as leader of the 16th D.F. on completion of current refit. (C. in C., Nore, 1504/29 to Admty.)

Rescue Ships
for O.B.Convoys
RATHLIN
TOWARD
COPELAND
MONTESTROOM

To sail with Convoys, change over with escorts, and return with homeward bound convoys. 4 ships already requisitioned and 2 more intended. To be based on Greenock and manned by volunteer Merchant Navy with one Naval Surgeon. Hoped RATHLIN ready in about one week and remainder in about 3 weeks. (D.T.D. 1556/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Scapa.
A/A Defence

C. in C., H.F. 1927/27. Request your views (V.C.N.S. 2323/29 to A.C.O.S.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE

At 1130/29. (D.C. 1136/29) At 2330/29 (D.C. 2356/29)

Movements

CAMPBELL
GARTH

Arrived Harwich 0933/29 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0933/29)

NELSON
SOMALI, MAORI
MATEBELE, DOUGLAS

Arrived Rosyth 1415/29 from Scapa. (C. in C., Rosyth 1423/29 to Admty.

Orkneys

Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1527/29)
Trawler lines tonight (A.C.O.S. 1535/29)

/Portsmouth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Portsmouth — Night Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1603/29)

Rosyth — Command State. (C. in C., Rosyth 2001/29)

FORFAR — F.O.C.N.P. 1102/29. Route to R/V (C. in C., W.A. 2232/29 to FORFAR)

Operations

D. 5. — At 1750/27 JAVELIN, JUPITER, KACKAL, JERSEY KASHMIR sailed from Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 0122/29 to Admty.)

Gunfire and Flashes reported 260° Prawle Point 30 miles. (C. in C., W.A. 0402/29 to D. 5.)

3 Vessels, class unknown, bearing 270° 3 miles, course 240° My position 247° 50° N 4° W., 37 miles. (JACKAL 0553/29 to S.O. Cruisers, Channel Force)

JAVELIN torpedoed. (JACKAL 0554/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Information gives flashes in 49° 55' N., 4° 35' W. (C. in C., W.A. 0556/29 to D.5)

Have engaged one Enemy Destroyer. Lost contact. (JACKAL 0603/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Report position (JACKAL 0611/29 to D.5.)

My 0554. Imposition 126° Lizard 20 miles. (JACKAL 0616/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Have lost touch with enemy after short action. JAVELIN believed sunk. Am in company with JERSEY and JUPITER in 240° 50° 4' W., 49 miles, course 200°, speed 28 knots at 0625. (KASHMIR 0634/29 to Devonport W/T)

JAVELIN afloat but on fire. She reports E-Boats in vicinity. Am keeping clear of her till daylight. M/V on fire in vicinity. (JACKAL 0655/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Your 0634.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd

Your 0634. 1 Enemy believed damaged. Intend continue search to Southward till 0800. Confirmed sweep to Northwards. Request Fighter protection. (KASHMIR 0700/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 0700. Continue search. Fighter is being sent. Report your position. (C. in C., W.A. 0732/29 to KASHMIR)

At 0800 my position 49° 8' N., 5° 16' W., speed 31 knots. (KASHMIR 0810/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

JAVELIN torpedoed both ends. Attempt towing 2 tugs either side. (JACKAL 0818/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

If nothing in sight, proceed to screen JAVELIN in 126° The Lizard 20 miles. (C. in C., W.A. 0834/29 to KASHMIR)

2 tugs left Dartmouth 0745, Tug CAROLINE MULLER left Falmouth at 0830, Tug RETORT is leaving Plymouth now to join JAVELIN (C. in C., W.A. 0836/29 to JACKAL)

3 Blenheim A/C have been sent to escort you. (C. in C., W.A. 0850/29 to KASHMIR)

JAVELIN is floating on even keel having lost both bow and stern. (JACKAL 0855/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

JACKAL and JAVELIN in 140° Lizard Head 20 miles at 0825. (C. in C., W.A. 0922/29 to Tug RETORT)

My 0836. Tug RETORT is being escorted by Trawlers TREVO, TERCEIRO, and CONCERTATOR Tug ATLAS is leaving Plymouth now. Is Motor Vessel still afloat. (C. in C., W.A 0950/29 to JACKAL)

M.G.B's have joined. D.5. still in JAVELIN. KASHMIR, JUPITER, JERSEY screening JAVELIN. (KASHMIR 1032/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

JACKAL returning to Plymouth with seriously wounded. E.T.A. 1300 (JACKAL 1039/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Capt. D.5.....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Capt. D. 5, 2 Staff Officers, Yeoman, Captain, 6 Officers and 51 ratings remain in JAVELIN. All other survivors transferred to JACKAL (Capt D. 5. 1045/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

Pilot Boat No 4 abandoned in 49° 49' N., 4° 49' W., on fire forward. Have rescued all survivors. Consider salvage possible. (JACKAL 1047/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Preliminary report of Operations night of 28/29th November.

1. D. 5. in JAVELIN with JACKAL, JUPITER, JERSEY, KASHMIR were in contact with enemy destroyers at 0553 today Fri day in position 140° Lizard 20 miles.

2. One enemy believed damaged. JAVELIN has bow and stern blown off by torpedo but floating on an even keel. Tugs sent to tow her to Plymouth.

3. Action was very brief; and contact with enemywas apparently lost almost immediately

KASHMIR, JUPITER, JERSEY swept towards Brest until 0800 but did not regain touch. They are now screening JAVELIN.

JACKAL is returning to Plymouth with seriously wounded.
(C. in C., W.A. 1134/29 to Admty.)

As JAVELIN no longer degaussed, request Negative Sweepers may sweep her in. (D.5. 1134/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Rejoin Capt. D. 5. in JAVELIN in 140° Lizard Head 20 miles by 1830. (C. in C., W.A. 1555/29 to M.G.B.'s 44 and 50)

Outlined plan tonight Friday.
KASHMIR, JERSEY, JUPITER operate south and west of JAVELIN as cover against destroyer attack.

2. M.G.B. 44 and 50 arrive 1830 as close screen.

3. M.G.B. from Portsmouth patrol south of Start Point to deal with E-Boats from Cherbourg.

/4.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

4. HUDSON patrol as in my 1556/28.

5. Details follow.
(C. in C., W.A. 1600/29 to Capt D.5.)

Shore cut to fit foremost bulkhead, wedge, tackles, and three battleship collision mats will be on board. JACKAL and ready to sail immediately any time after 1730. Owing to difficulty of making contact and transfer in the dark she will not be sailing unless you order it. (C. in C., W.A. 1622/29 to Capt. D.5.)

My 1600/29 after fuelling M.G.B's from Portsmouth are to proceed to Patrol a Line from 180° Start Point 5 miles to 180° Start Point 30 miles. Object to -intercept E-Boat from Eastward. (C. in C., W.A. 1650/29 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

JAVELIN in tow. My position at 1700, 49° 51' N., 4° 50' W., course 045° speed 4½ knots. 2 Trawlers are towing abandoned M/V. 5 miles astern. (KASHMIR 1705/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Proceed forthwith to patrol from 180° Start Point five to 180° Start Point thirty as long as fuel permits then proceed Dartmouth object destroy E-Boats approaching from Cherbourg. (C. in C., W.A. 1838/29 to M.A.S.B. 53)

My 1600 After JUPITER insert KIPLING (C. in C., W.A. 2000/29 to D.5.)

My 1134. Preliminary report from JACKAL indicates that JAVELIN was torpedoed very soon after opening fire at 0540. Enemy divided into 2 groups. JACKAL chased and engaged one destroyer which made off to westward making smoke, but lost contact after 30 minutes. Enemy fired 2 torpedoes at JACKAL which missed. JACKAL altered to southwest to endeavour to intercept but abandoned chase when it was obvious that enemy would pass Ushant before daylight.

Meanwhile other two enemy destroyers appeared to retire to southward with remainder of Flotilla engaging them.

/2.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

2. D. 5 is still in JAVELIN in tow of two tugs, 2 M.G.B's forming close screen, while KASHMIR, JERSEY, JUPITER and KIPLING cover to the southward. M.A.S.B's from Portsmouth are on passage to eastward of tow to intercept E-Boats from Cherbourg. Cross over patrol from Start to Lizard will be maintained by Hudsons.

3. Captain, 6 Officers and 51 ratings still on board JAVELIN in addition to D.5 and two staff Officers. JACKAL landed 114 ratings from JAVELIN, of whom 12 are cot cases.

4. Other vessels known to have been involved are tug AID and Barge C.B.X. 110 sunk, pilot vessel No. 4 and tug ABEILLE No 14 being towed in by trawlers. (C. in C., W.A. 2114/29 to Admty.)

Your 2255. 5th Flotilla to anchor in Sound as convenient. Detail 2 ships to cover Trawler towing in M/V before doing so. (C. in C., W.A. 2348/29 to KASHMIR)

JACKAL arrived Plymouth 1347/29. M.G.B's 44 and 50 arrived Plymouth 1141/29. Sailed at 0855/29 Tug RETORT and M/S Trawlers TERVO TERCEIRA and CONCERTATOR. Sailed at 1730, M.G.B's 44 and 50. (C. in C., W.A. 2356/29)

Operation J.H. — Completed. Nothing to report. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1103/29 to Admty.)

Dover Shelled — Enemy Coastal Batteries fired twn rounds between 1029 and 1204 and eight rounds between 1612 and 1707 today. Majority fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery. A few in sea off Leathercoates. No damage or casualties reported. Fighters shot down aircraft spotting for A.M. Shoot. (V.A.Dover, 1919/29 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

29.11.1940
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

P. 24. — Arriving Dundee 1100/29. (C. in C., Rosyth 0200/29)

H. 50. — Left Rothesay, escorted by VIRGINIA. E.T.A. Holyhead 1030/30 (Capt. S. 7. to Admty.)

PORPOISE — C. in C., W.A. 1935/27. As TROUBADOUR is further delayed, intend CUTTY SARK to escort PORPOISE as in my 2302/27 (S. 2. 1539/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

USK
UNIQUE — USK's E.T.A. in position W is 0839/30 to R/V with CAPE PALLISER. UNIQUE may also arrive in Position W at the same time. (S. 5. 1543/29)

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/30 (V.A.S 1717/29)

UNIQUE — Expect arrive 0830/30 (UNIQUE 1857/29 to S. 5.)

TALISMAN — Leave Patrol after dark 2/12 ~~to~~ meet Escort at 0900/4 in 300° Pendeen Watch House 5 m miles. Route. (Capt S. 2. 1957/29 to TALISMAN)

TIGRIS — Reports attack on Barque in 45° 41' N., 2° 57' W., at 2340/12. Barque set on fire, abandoned, and could not afterwards be found. (V.A.S 2204/29 to Admty.)

British Air Activity

D. 5. — 4 Beauforts are sweeping between Lizard Head and Ushant to search for damaged Enemy ships. (C. in C., W.A. 0958/29 to JACKAL)

S.A. I.E. — Assessment (C. in C., Rosyth 1256/29)

Convoy
E.N. 33 — Air Patrols till dark. (C. in C., Rosyth 1532/29 to CURACOA)

Rosyth Area — Air Escorts for 30/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1912/29)

Western
Channel — Hudson aircraft fitted A.S.V. carries out patrol tonight between 49° 59' N., 06° 05' W., 49° 59' N., 03° 35' W., 49° 20' N., 03° 50' W., Wolf Rock. (C. in C W.A. 1934/29 to KASHMIR)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.B. (Even Number)

Being attacked by aircraft in 55° 19' N., 15° W., (? ACTIVE 1010/29)
My 1010. Single Plane. 4 Bombs. No hits. (ACTIVE 1040/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Convoy AGENT

Enemy bombing in 51° 34' N., 1° 10' E., (F.N. Convoy 1056/29) 3 M.E. 109. (F.N. Convoy 1100/29)
My 1128 Enemy's course 100° JU.88. (F.N. Convoy 1140/29)
Am being shadowed by 1 aircraft (F.N.Convoy 1205/29)
2 aircraft over convoy in 51° 45' N., 1° 26' E., (F.N. Convoy 1410/29)

KASHMIR

Enemy is bombing in 49° 42' N.m 4° 57' W. (KASHMIR 1419/29)

Plymouth

My 0143/28. At 0535/29 the three further tanks containing fuel burst and fire boiled over into Greek. Railway Bridge damaged. 3 A.F.S. Trailer pumps and 2 fire floats burnt out. 12 to 15 casualties sent to hospital. Situation at 1500 all tanks containing fuel burning but fire is confined to the saucer. Conference now being held to decide on best method of using fresh foam appliances received and hope may be possible to reduce flames by nightfall. (C. in C., W.A. 1701/29 to Admty.)

BRITISH OFFICER

In Convoy F.N. 46 was machine-gunned to-day in Thames Estuary by an aircraft showing British markings. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1809/29 to C. in C., Nore)

Lowestoft

At 1842/ aircraft dropped small number of H.E. Bombs close to Richards Ironworks Yard. About 10 civilian casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2045/29 to Admty.)

5

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

CALVERTON — (LL Trawler) Mined at 0230/29 in 118° Spurn Point Lighthouse 3.7 miles. Sank at 0300 in 132° Spurn Point Lighthouse 4.2 miles. (.F.O Humber 0859/29 to Admty) 2 missing, 1 seriously injured, 6 slightly. (Base Capt. Grimsby 1056/29 to Admty)
LUDA LADY landed 18 survivors of whom 6 injured, 2 seriously, 2 men still missing (F.O.Humber 0915/29 to Admty.)

Operation G.Q.1. (Little Sole Bank) — My 1930/28 and you 2329/28. Operation postponed 24 hours. Destroyer escort not available. (C. in C., W.A. 1050/29 to ADVENTURE)

Your 1930/28 Could ADVENTURE complete her lay by 0100, so that she would be less likely to be reported when returning. (A.C.N.S. H. 1152/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1152/29. As the whole passage from and to Scillies cannot be made in dark hours it is considered more important to conceal her intention on the outward passage than to risk detection on her way home. The time table has been worked out on the above basis and the time of departure from Bishop Rock has now been altered to 1900. (C. in C., WA. 1718/29 and 0430/30 to Admty.)

My 1930/28 and Admty 1013/26. Intention tolay in direction 46°, 10 miles, from 48° 15' N., 9° 30' W., by ADVENTURE on Night 1/2 December. Route from Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A. 1850/29 and 2304/29 to ADVENTURE)

Iceland — Request you signal proposed limits of dangerous areas for Observation Minefields in Iceland, and procedure proposed for signals. (D. of L.D. 1254/29 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

Harwich — Heavy Explosion reported 2 miles S.W. of H.K. 2 and 1 mile E.N.E. of H.K.1., confirmed by Coast Guard Walton at 1753. A/C seen at 1746 (F.O.I.C. 1824/29 to C. in C., Nore)

/D.W.FITZGERALD.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

D.W.FITZGERALD — (M/S Vessel) Badly damaged at 1555/29 by 2 Mines in 168° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.6 miles Towed into Grimsby Details (F.O.Humber 1855/29 and 2050/29 to Admty)

RECONO — (M/S Trawler) Badly damaged at 1700/29 by mine 100 yards East of Boom Gate. Ship beached at Doign Slip, Grimsby. One casualty (F.O.Humber 2127/29 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

TAURI Intercepted — My 1717/27 TAURI (Finnish) arrived yesterday having been boarded by German armed merchantman taken to Vardo released after 24 hours. Master tried to ascertain name of ship without success but confirms other particulars given in my immediately preceding telegram. Observed two Russian destroyers proceeding north-west shortly before reaching Finnish territorial waters. (Vice Consul, Petsamo 1844/29 to D.N.I.)

TEMPLAR — Reported on 18/11 at Hamburg fitting out as an A.M.C. Graded C.3. (D.N.I. 0150/29 to C's in C.)

U-BOATS — Following received from Navy Dept. From a reliable source U-Boat activity is expected to increase in December and present estimated number of German submarines is 142, majority of which are equipped with hydraphones (Sic) of British Submarine SEAL Type. Monthly building capacity is reported as 25 submarines. (N.A.Washington 1215/28 to Admty.)

Brest — 3 Destroyers seen at 1230/29. One possibly damaged (St. Eval 1555/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

Surface Ship — At 2015 in 49° 25' N., (?longitude) A/C report (C. in C., W.A. 2138/29 to KASHMIR)

MISCELLANEOUS

Belfast Trawler Force — Allocation of A/S Trawlers (C. in C., W.A 1636/29.)

MOST SECRET

29.11.1940
Friday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ROBERT F.HAND	(British Tanker, 12,197 tons) Arrived Belfast Lough from Milford Haven. Severe bow damage from collision with PARTHENIA. 50 survivors on board. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1210/29 to Admty)
TALONA	(Balloon Barrage Drifter) In collision with Trawler WRANGLER on 28/11 and sank in Fish Dock, Grimsby. (F.O.Humber 1555/29 to Admty)
YOUNG FISHERMAN	(Drifter on Engagement 6) Grounded alongside Railway Pier, Oban. Efforts to float her unsuccessful. Request -arrange salvage. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1800/29 to Admty)
ATHELTEMPLAR	(British Tanker, 8949 tons) Reported damaged and to require Tanker for discharge of Oil Fuel. Request confirmation. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1832/29 to TRELAWNEY)
TARTAR	Suspected case of Sabotage at Devonport, involving cutting of electric cables. (C. in C., W.A. 0001/29)
WILLING BOYS	Paid off 18/11 (F.O.I.C. London 1235/29)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
Positions	Estimated positions North Atlantic convoys 0900/29 (D.T.D., to C. in C., H.F., 1058/29)
C.E. 18	VANOC and WITCH to patrol eastward as cover. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1257/29) Sailed 1545 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1647/29)
H.X. 89	Formation for passing through North Channel (C. in C., W.A., 1428/29 to WARWICK, etc.) Your 1428/29 cannot be decyphered. WARWICK not met H.X. 89. Positi n.(WARWICK 1700/29) H.X. 89 not met. My position (CLEMATIS 1410/29 to WANDERER)
	Following received from FLEUR DE LYS via aircraft (begins) position H.X. 89 0930/29 056° 26' N., 013° 39'W., course till split. Estimated time of split 0900/30. PERIWINKLE and CAMPANULA in company, time of origin 1207 (ends) (C. in C., W.A. 1900/29 to CLEMATIS, WILD SWAN, WANDERER etc.,)
	Cancel my 1900/29 (C. in C., W.A. to WANDERER 2008/29)
	Your 1900 H.X. 89 not met, steering through position 056° 16' N., 012° 04' W 083° 13 knots, arriving South Negril Point 0700. (CLEMATIS 2100/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
E.N. 34 W.N. 47	HASTINGS to act as additional A/A escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1125/29) Details and escort E.N. 34, ANGLE, ST LOMAN (N.C.S.O. Methil 1706/29)
F.S. 48	Intend sailing A/S trawler GREENFLY with F.S. 48, 1/12 (F.O.Humber 1556/29)
O.B. 251	My 1655/29. Sail ST LAURENT forthwith to join O.B. 251 GARLAND is to escort FORFAR (C. in C., W.A. 1906/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock D. 12) My 1655/29. Delete GARLAND (C. in C., W.A. 2004/29)
F.N., F.S.	Forecast of Convoy sailings. (C. in C., Rosyth 1325/29) Asking for figures of ships suitable for (a) slow and (b) fast convoy sailed during November (D.T.D., 1755/29 to N.C.S.O's)

/ H.X.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
H.X.	Escort Forecast for H.X.Convoys (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1022/29)
S.C. 14	Admty 1341/12. Intend sailing S.C. 14 without escort. SANDWICH has not arrived Sydney. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1452/29) Admty 1456/29. FORFAR leaves Clyde 1200/30 to meet and escort S.C. 14 (F.O.C.N.P., 1702/29)
Sydney	Convoy assembly at (see American & West Indies)
OSLO FJORD	Sailed escorted by VIMY at 1800 in accordance C. in C., H.F. 1114/28 (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2000/29)
OLIGARCH	Cancel my 2100/28. NORTHERN PRINCESS (to escort) has broken down on trial (F.O., Iceland, 0951/29 to Admty)
Rescue Ships	Being requisitioned to sail with O.B. Convoys (D.T.D. 1556/29)
Extra A.M.C's for Atlantic Escorts S.C. 14.	Until more "R" class battleships can be made available it is necessary to allocate extra A.M.C's as ocean escorts on North Atlantic route otherwise some convoys will be unescorted. This must be done at the expense of the number of A.M.C's allocated to Denmark Straits patrol. F.O.C. N.P. to sail FORFAR 30/11 to meet S.C. 14. (details) C. in C., W.A. to arrange for special escort for FORFAR to enable her to meet S.C. 14 on West Atlantic. F.O.C. N.P. also requested to propose arrangements for another A.M.C. to escort S.C. 15 (date) (A.C.N.S. (T) 1456/29)
	Admty 1456/29. FORFAR leave Clyde 1200/30 to meet and escort Convoy S.C. 14 X leaving Sydney C.B. 30/11 speed 6 and a half knots (date) (F.O.C.N.P. 1702/29)
S.C. 15	Your 1456/29 para 4. (F.O.C.N.P. to propose arrangements for another A.M.C. to escort S.C. 15) CILICIA will be available leaving Clyde noon 8/12. Request outward A/S escort be arranged. (F.O.C.N.P. 1706/29 to Admty.)
S.L. 57	

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

S.L. 57

Departure 0600/29. CANTON as ocean escort to Convoy S.L. 57 and thence to Greenock in accordance with C. in C., S.A's 1259/28 (S.O.I., Freetown 1009N/29)

A.M.C. Escorts

C. in C., S.A's 1905/27. Consider that A.M.C's should leave Convoy 24 hours before rendezvous with local escort as in the case of those with H.K. Convoys. A.M.C's proceeding independently to U.K. should keep well to the Northward of convoy routes in order to minimise the danger of air attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1608/29)

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DU HAVRE

Your 2309 M/28. Concur. (C.in C. S.A. 0446/29 to DRAGON).
My 1020 M/29. Coaling of tug complete. Intend shadowing leaving guard in VILLE DU HAVRE. Tug has been receiving orders from Dakar. (DRAGON, 1717/29 to C.in C. S.A.) DRAGON's 1020/29. If intended VILLE DU HAVRE be brought Freetown by Tug or DRAGON towing propose EDINBURGH or DIDO proceeds to support in case of interference by Vichy ships. Delay adds to possibility ~~and~~ S/M's may intercept. (C.in C. S.A. 1745/29 to Admty.)
Your 2352/28 and DRAGON's 1020/29. Request be informed if further instructions have been sent. (C.in C. S.A. 2347/29 to C.in C. S.A.)

AJAX
Personnel.

Your 1720/27 (French personnel from S/M AJAX) Remainder, understood 7 ratings mentioned in (2) and (3) your 1652/21X should be sent U.K. first opportunity. If unwilling join de Gaulle will be found other employment.
(Ad. of M. 1219/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Policy.

Your 2111/18 paragraph (ii). Is it intended that this shall overrule policy laid down to S.A. Station in my 1957/5/10 concurred with by Admiralty which states under (A) that Vichy French met South of Dakar should be prevented from going to any French West Africa port. Intended to include Ivory Coast and Dahomey to prevent provisions supplies and requirements from being embarked these ports see B.D. signal cancelled. (C.in C. S.A. 2311M/28 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

S/M Patrol,
Azores.

It has been decided to establish a submarine patrol off the Azores.
This patrol will be maintained by three O, P or R class submarines from 1st Flotilla based at Gibraltar after they have been relieved in the Mediterranean by three U class submarines from 5th Flotilla.
While these redispositions are being carried out the Azores Patrol is to be maintained by submarines from 2nd Flotilla. (C.in C. H.F., Med., etc.)
(A.A.P.(H) 1228/29, to C.in

/ BERWICK
Damage. .....

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BERWICK
Damage.

Damage to BERWICK too extensive for repairs to be undertaken at Gibraltar. Ship has effected temporary repairs to holes in deck and turret and is seaworthy. Y Turret out of action.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1850/29.)

RENOWN
defect.

Owing to running of H.P. Borderion bearing starboard inner shaft of RENOWN, this shaft will be out of action until 1600/30. Ship is at 6 hours' notice on 3 shafts until that time.
(S.O. Force H 2116/29 to Admty.)

Sailings for U.K.

Your 2109/26 my 1202/28 and my 1850/29. Propose sail ARGUS, RAMILLIES, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, ECLIPSE, BERWICK and FRANCONIA in company with destroyer escort P.M. 1/12. Your 1915/20. If Group Captain Lloyd does not arrive in time for board enquiry 1/12 may Group Captain Rogers 200 group take his place on board in order to avoid delay to any of above ships and consequent extra escort commitment. Group Captain Rogers was in no way concerned with plan for operation WHITE.
See also H.Q.C.C. 1425/29 to 200 group.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2226/29 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

NORMAN STAR,
HAVDOR

NORMAN STAR arrived 28/11. My 1552/22 confirmed HAVDOR sunk by S/M. (N.S.O.(I) Freetown 0752/29).

PRETORIA CASTLE,
SCYTHIA,
WARWICK CASTLE,
CORNWALL.

Capetown Arrived 28/11. PRETORIA CASTLE, SCYTHIA, WARWICK CASTLE. Departure 0810/29 PRETORIA CASTLE, SCYTHIA to rejoin CORNWALL and convoy W.S.4A. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830Z/29).

CUMBERLAND.

Arrived 0615/29. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1015 M/29). Proceeding to S.A. Division in accordance with Admty. 0036/23 has only 1 Walrus A/C, other lost no spares. Consider she should have 2 before leaving. Intend transfer 1 from EDINBURGH who has 2 on board. Request another Walrus A/C may be allocated to EDINBURGH to replace.
(C.in C. S.A. 1745/29 to Admty.)

HERMES.

Arrived 1730/29. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1747/29).

A.M.C's,
catapults

ALCANTARA will be fitted during current refit. CANTON fitted in December. ARAWA, MORETON BAY will not be fitted.
(D.O.D. (P) 2252/29 to C.in C. S.A.)

W.S.4 B.

Arrival 1200/29. EDINBURGH and DEVONSHIRE with Convoy W.S.4 B. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1405 M/29).

/ ESCOLANO. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ESCOLANO — My 1732/27 referred to S.S. ESCOLANO (Spanish). This was intercepted in your 1106/28 as the FAUSTINO R SAN PEDRO, a difference of one in the signal letters. Possibly a transmission error but request you will take any action considered necessary.
(H.W.R. 1137/29 to C.in C. S.A.)

Operation Stripe. — 27 Hurricanes ashore 6 Hurricanes flying off 0600/29, one Hurricane crashed. 12 Hurricanes leave Takoradi 29/11 for Egypt remainder later.
(FURIOUS 0245/29 to Admty.)

Your 0140 and my 0245. Operation Stripe completed. 34 Hurricanes and three Fulmars disembarked. One Hurricane crashed in sea pilot saved.
(FURIOUS, 0709/29 to Admty.)

33 Stripes arrived Takoradi 1 lost in sea. 6 Stripes leaving Takoradi 0940 hours G.M.T. 29/11. 6 will leave daily.
(R.A.F. Takoradi 0919/29 to FURIOUS).

CRAGPOOL MEROPI — Overdue shipping. CRAGPOOL Barry departure 18/10 due Buenos Aires 22/11 and MEROPI, Barry departure 18/10 due Montevideo 21/11 have not arrived.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1806/29).

Mediterranean.

A/C Recon. — Your 1935/28. Only Glenn Martin available will carry out reconnaissance of Maddalena, Cagliari, and Messina in that order.
No reconnaissance of Taranto will be carried out today 29/11. (V.A. Malta, 0745/29, to S.O. Force H).

Operation "Collar". — Your 1911/27. In view of importance of establishing definitely exact nature of forces engaged request you will carefully

Action on 27/11. — question captain of Sunderland, as to
(a) Class of cruiser and destroyers reported in para. (c).
(b) Did Flying Boat search the Area for other warships.
(c) Was he in position to survey whole of field of action.
(d) Did he observe ARK ROYAL's aircraft attacking.
(e) Were any battleships sighted, bearing in mind similarity between Italian battleships and certain classes of Italian cruisers.
(f) What was class of cruiser reported in your para. (f).
(C.in C. Med., 1005/29 to V.A. Malta)
Reply, see 2003/30.

/ U.S. Observer ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

U.S. Observer. Following for N.A., American Embassy, London, from Lieutenant Commander Clark in RENOWN. Admiralty Communique on recent engagement between Italian and British Naval forces off Sardinia and resultant damage to both sides personally verified Italian and German claim untrue.
(S.O. Force H, 1117/29, to Admty.)
Note:- U.S. Naval Attache requests that contents of this signal should not be given to the Press.

UTMOST. My 1242/28. Owing to late arrival of Force H trials of UTMOST have had to be postponed. Intend sailing her p.m./30 for Malta. (F.O.C.N.A., 1216/29 to N.O.I.C. Malta).

Enemy Troop Transport. Susak reports troops embarked on 27/11 and 28/11 at Trieste in five German ships which are ready to sail at once for Albania. Reliability unassessed but source usually reliable.
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 1528/29 to Admty.)

Cables. Restoration of cable communication between Gibraltar and Malta increasingly desirable. Cable and Wireless suggest joining un-cut Malta-Bona cable to No. 4 Malta-Gibraltar by laying new cable between points 37° 17', 8° 34' and 37° 52', 7° 37'.
(D.S.D. 1657/29 to C.in C. Med.)

My 1657/29 passed to you for information.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0035/30 to V.A. Malta).

Enemy Troop Transports. My 0755/27. Usual reliable source at Susak reports troops embarked Trieste on 27 and 28/11 in 5 German ships which are ready to sail for Albania at once. Destination probably San Giovanni di Medua. ANKARA, DRESDEN, FREIENFELS, KYBFELS, REICHENFELS, WACHTFELS are most suitable for purpose but about 12 smaller German ships are in Adriatic.
(Capt. S.1, 1703/29, to TETRARCH, TRITON, REGULUS).

Air Recon. Air reconnaissance for 29/11 (a) Cagliari, 2 Destroyers (b) Maddalena, 1 Cruiser 1 Destroyer 1 Auxiliary. (c) Messina, 3 Cruisers 3 Destroyers usual berths. No damaged ships apparently present.
(V.A. Malta, 1731/29, N.O. Malta 1720/29)

/ Suez Canal ....

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal.

Your 1917/27. Yes, but I consider fact that control of Canal Company is exercised from London and not Chatel Guyon should be made generally known in order to allay disquietude among those in company who are strongly supporting us and encourage wavereers to do same. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1047/29).

Spezia Dock.

Reference C.B. 1712.A. pages 35 and 108, a report graded B.1 states that No.5 Dock at Spezia has been lengthened to accommodate a LITTORIO class Battleship. (D.N.I. 1849/29).

Sarande and Durazzo Bombed.

Day 29/11. 3 Blenheims attacked a large enemy ship in Sarande. No hits bombs fell on wharves.
6 Blenheims bombed Durazzo and 2 others bombed Elbasan results unobserved owing to low cloud.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1203/29).

East Indies.

Suspicious Ship.

Ship in approximate position 30° 31' S. 58' 00° E. reports intercepting QQQQ signal at 1300/29. Signals were strong and apparently close.
(D.D.I.C. 2021/29 and 2345/29 to C.in C. E.I.
Your 2021/29. CARTHAGE proceeding towards 027° S., 048° E. to intercept and give cover to UMEENI. Request name of ship intercepting QQQQ message, whether 1300 is G.M.T. or Zone - 3 and confirmation that no position or name of ship was included in QQQQ signal.
(C.in C. E.I. 2226Z/29 to Admty.)

Add to my 2021/29. Signals were very strong and apparently close.
(D.D.I.C., 2345/29).

U.S.7 Escort (position)

Your 0514 28/11 CAPETOWN will rendezvous with US 7 and relieve CANBERRA (position).
Intend PERTH and CAPETOWN to escort US 7 from Colombo to vicinity of Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 0803Z/29 to Australian Naval Board.)

S.W.3.
False Italian Claim .....

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

S.W.3.
False Italian Claim.

Reference Reuter 28/11 in which Italian Communique is quoted as claiming sinking by S/M of three Merchant men in convoy in Red Sea 26/11. Inform local press all ships known to have been at sea in Red Sea on this date are accounted for and no reports of sinkings have been received. (C.in C. E.I., 1220Z/29 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Reuter's A.M. 28/11 reads "Italians also claim that one of their Submarines in Red Sea on 26/11 torpedoed and sank three Merchantmen in a heavily escorted convoy". (ii) CALEDON escorting S.W.3 reports three underwater explosions felt between 0010Z and 0015Z 26/11 in 015° 30' N. All ships in Red Sea on this date accounted for except TAIF bound from Port Sudan to Yembo due Suez 1/12 when her arrival should be reported. (iii) It seems undesirable that such Italian statements should appear in press without some comment or denial. Have denied this statement on MEYNELL. My 1220Z/29 refers. (iv) Possible that S.W.3 was fired at and torpedoes exploded at end run without hitting. (C.in C. E.I. 1222Z/29 to Admty. amended 0752Z/30)

Your 1222Z/29. Concur in steps taken to refute Italian claim. (D.P.D., 2344/29, to C.in C. E.I.).

Operation "Canned"

Operation "Canned" (attack on fish cannery, Mogadishu) completed. First bombing attack on D/F Station at 1055 C no apparent damage. Bombardment of Fish factory commenced 1156. Considerable damage including two fires one probably Petrol factory judged out of action. Second bombing attack on D/F Station 1520 C. A/C on landing ground. Hospital clearly distinguishable, no Wells near it or native village. No operatives seen at any time in or near factory. A/C met some rifle fire. (LEANDER 1258Z/29 to C.in C. E.I.)

Air Report.

Daily Intelligence Summary No. 170 and Operational Summary, for 24 hours ending 1500 29/11. No casualties. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1740/29 to Air Min.).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Dutch Navy Talks.

My 0201Z/23. Discussion completed. Dutch officers leave for Java a.m./30. (C.in C. China 1013/29).
My 0141/28 (co-operation with Dutch Forces and issue of Inter-Allied Code). Para. 3, for Code read Cypher. (C.in C. China, 0501Z/29).

ILE DE FRANCE Repatriees.

Your 0557/19. Request information whether ILE DE FRANCE personnel sailed according to plan and may be expected (date) at Lourenco Marques. (Hd. of M. 1354/29 to Cdre. Malaya.)

Situation.

F.E.W. 6. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 1203/29).

Secret document.

I have not yet received a copy. Suggesting enquiry as to disposal. (C.in C. China, 1003/29).

America and West Indies.

DIOMEDE.

Proceed Trinidad at best possible speed. Flooding of fuel tanks should be avoided if possible. Fuel on arrival and await further orders. Report by W/T your expected time of arrival Trinidad. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1232/29, to DIOMEDE)
Your 1232/29. E.T.A. Trinidad 1400/1. (DIOMEDE 1712/29).

"Town" Class Destroyers.

SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR leave Halifax 1500 G.M.T. 30/11 for St. Johns Newfoundland and Clyde (route). (S.O. Halifax Force, 1615/29)

Convoys, Sydney.

Convoy assembly at Sydney will cease after sailing of S.H.X. 04 and S.C.15. S.C.16 will be ready to sail from Halifax (date). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1702/29).

Aircraft.

Your 1212/29. Military and Lockheed planes will leave Curacoa 0700 and 0900 respectively 30/11. (S.N.O. Curacoa, to C.in C. A.W.I., 1715/29)

CABLE ENTERPRISE.

N.O. i/c Trinidad 1051/28 November (re laying of loops and submitting alteration of whaler to loop layer ideal) CABLE ENTERPRISE now at St. Lucia but I have no information of arrangement made with Cable Company regarding employment for loop laying. Concur in proposal of N.O. i/c Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1902/29 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Flagship. Flag of F.O.C. Australian Sqdn. transferred temporarily to CANBERRA 27/11. (A.C.N.B. 0507/29).

MAURETANIA U.S.S. My 0707/12/10. Estimated time for boiler repairs. In view of movements of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA this would occasion very little delay to U.S.S. (A.C.N.B., 1134Z/29 to D. of S.T.)

ADELAIDE Arrived Sydney 1850Z/28. (A.C.N.B. 1009Z/29).

New Zealand.

Suva. Maintenance of oil stocks at, in view of increased activity in Pacific and regular visits of MONOWAI and ACHILLES. (N.Z.N.B., to Admty., 0614Z/29).

RANGITANE (sunk 20/11) Conditions of attack on RANGITANE suggest R.D.F. or accoustic methods of detection. Request view of D.S.R. to assist in designing detection set. (N.Z.N.B. to Admty., 2345Z/29)
My 1153Z/27. After further investigation RANGITANE position was found to be only 40 miles 180° from estimated position. (N.Z.N.B., 0400Z/29)
Confirmation of RANGITANE sinking by raider on 20/11 received from Norwegian TA PING YANG, which arrived Auckland 28/11 and reports having seen wreckage and large patch of oil in position of the attack. (D.S.452,30/11)

SAN GABRIEL. Greek, torpedoed 30/8 and subsequently beached in Clyde, now reported a constructive total loss. (D.S. 452)

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GERMANIA

It is important if possible to intercept oil tanker GERMANIA reported as having arrived Las Palmas 28/11.
(D.O.D.(F) 0032/29 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Proceed forthwith to Areas S 3 S 2 and S 1 respectively. Object intercept GERMANIA.
(F.O.C.N.P. 0150/29 to CIRCASSIA, CALIFORNIA, WORCESTERSHIRE).

Your 0150/29, request confirmation that area S. is intended since available information puts GERMANIA at Ponta Delgada.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 1328/29, to V.A.N.P.)

My 1320/29 amend to read WORCESTERSHIRE F 2.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1708/29).

Bi-weekly report from Las Palmas.
GERMANIA now berthed alongside breakwater outer harbour. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1715/29).

GERMANIA arrived Las Palmas 0400/28 fully loaded. (F.O.C.N.P. 1840/29, to Western Patrol).

IDARWALD
RHEIN

IDARWALD sailed 0745, RHEIN at 0825.
(S.O.I., Kingston, 0913/29 to Admty., etc.)

German ships IDARWALD and RHEIN left Tampico at 0700 today.
(N.A. Washington, 1034/29).

My immediately preceding telegram ships sailed 7 o'clock this morning 29/11.
Jamaica advised direct by R.O. Tampico.
(Consul General, Mexico City 1052A/29).

German Ships IDARWALD and RHEIN sailed from Tampico a.m./29. Request two aircraft be sent to Jamaica so as to be ready to commence operations from there at daylight 2/12. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1212/29, to S.N.O. Curacoa).
Your 1212/29. Military and Lockheed planes will leave Curacoa 0700 and 0900 respectively 30/11. (S.N.O. Curacoa, 1715/29).

My immediately preceding tel. IDARWALD went ashore about a mile South of port entrance but was able to re-float herself. Both vessels are reported to have taken Southerly course. (Consul General, Mexico City, 1328/29).

/ IDARWALD .....

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Continued)

IDARWALD ran aground one mile S.E. of port entrance. Reported relocated and both ships proceeding southerly direction. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1500/29).

Press report states German steamers RHEIN and IDARWALD left Tampico today 29/11. (D.D.I.C. 1631/29 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

My 1034/29. Navy Dept. report RHEIN received clearance papers for Teneriffe. (N.A. Washington, 1824/29).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT BADEN — Following received by L/T from Teneriffe C.T.C. Recoded (Begins). German aeroplane arrived here 26/11 and another 28/11 with 33 seamen for German vessels RUDOLF ALBRECHT BADEN. First aeroplane proceeded to Las Palmas same day and second aircraft left 28/11 for unknown destination. (Gibraltar, 1110/29, to Admty.)

NORBURG — German vessel NORBURG arrived from Russia 27/11. (Macrae, Galatz, 1144/29).

KLAUS SCHOKE — Reported that German ship KLAUS SCHOKE may sail from Ponta Delgada P.M. today Friday. (D.D.I.C. 2034/29).

LERSEE, GERDA VITH, DESSEL, NORD ATLANTIC, LA PLATA — At Vigo. B.2 report, every sign of early departure. (D.S., 452/30/11).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AEQUITAS. — Italian ship AEQUITAS left Ceara 0950/29 for Rio de Janeiro escorted by Brazilian Minelayer CARIOCA. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 14577/29).

DERNA. — Arrived 29/11 from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1746/29).

RECCA. — Following from Navy Department. My 1217/28 RECCA sailed from Havana 1000/28.

FELLA. — Italian steamer FELLA at Punta Arenas is taking on board water and stores indicating intention to sail. (N.A. Washington, 1824/29.)

MOST SECRET

29.11.1940
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

HARPASA — British, 5082 tons. 53.35 N., 20.33 W., HARPASA, submarine sighted, 1032/29. (Valentia Radio 1120/29) (Rosyth W/T 1225/29)

DIPLOMAT (Torpedoed 27/11) — If ship not found by dusk return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to ASSURANCE, SALVONIA, 1651/29)

JUSTICIA (torpedoed 22/11) — British, 4562 tons. Torpedoed 2357/22 approx. 160' W., of Bloody Foreland. In Convoy S.C. 11 Latest reports state afloat but listing. 26 members of crew landed at Liverpool by BLUEBELL. Master and 12 others believed still on board. (D.S. 452, 30/11) (D.O.R. 1/12)

Submarines Reported

1150 — A.F. message, 53.35 N., 20.33 W., at 1050 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1246/29)

1907 — 52°- 53° N., 15.30-18.30 W., indefinite position Italian U-Boat (D.S. 452)

1132 — 53.35 N., 20.33 W., sighted by British HARPASA (B.1.) (D.S. 452)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian 1 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 in about 52 N., 17 W., outward and 1 in about 54 N., 16 W., homeward bound to Gironde.
German- 1 N.W. Orkneys.
1 between 59 and 60 N., 16 and 20 W., at 2050/28.
3 in area 54 to 57 N., 12° to 20° W.,
1 South of 56 N., and East of 10° W.,
1 possibly S.W. Ireland bound for Lorient
1 may arrive Lorient p.m. today.
(D.D.I.C. 1145/29) (V.A.S., 1328/29)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyer for Gibraltar — One destroyer of 5th.D.F. to be at half an hours notice for proceeding to Gibraltar by 1530/30. (VCNS.1037/30 to C. in C. W.A.) JERSEY detailed. (C. in C. W.A.1624/30 to Adty).

Despatch of Tugs to Disabled Ships — When reports received of torpedoed ships, it would greatly assist and economise tugs if confirmation could be obtained by A/C or surface ship that damaged ship is still afloat. The policy of sending a tug to great distances in Atlantic to search unaided for a ship reported damaged is wasteful and imposes severe strain on tug's personnel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1309/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

Destroyer for Western Approaches. — Adty. 1734/30. Send one Tribal Class Destroyer from Scapa. (C. in C. H.F.2256/30 to R.A.D).

Discontinuance of Sloops for Ocean Escorts. — Your 2030/16. Approved. (ACNS.T.2301/30 to C. in C. W.A).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Scapa. A/A Defences. — Your 1001/28. Suggest orders be given to construct additional runways at Scatsta and an aerodrome on North side of Balta sound in Unst whatever may be the difficulties. (C. in C. H.F.1107/30 to Adty).

DELUGE. — At 1130/30. (D.C.1128/30). At 2330/30 (D.C.2335/30).

Methil. — New Balloon Barrage is shortly to be established. Details. (Air Min:1458/30).

Movements.

Nore. — Dispositions for Night 30/1. (C. in C. Nore 0800/30).

MAORI. — To proceed at 1000/1 to Tyne for re-fit. (C. in C. H.F.0932/30 to MAORI).

Dover. — Dispositions for Night 30/1. (V.A. Dover 1231/30).

Iceland. — My 2100/28 and 0951/29. NORTHERN PRINCESS sailed 1315 G.M.T. escorting Oiler OLIGARCH. (F.O. Iceland 1246/30 to Adty).

....FORFAR.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (contd:)

FORFAR. Sailed, escorted by ST.LAURENT, as by F.O.C.N.P.1702/29 and routed as in C.in C. W.A. 2253/29 and F.O.C.N.P. 0930/30. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1305/30 to Adty).

ENCHANTRESS. Arrive Aldeburgh Light Float 0730/1 and thence at 10 knots to Sheerness to de-ammunition. Route. (C.in C. Nore 1430/30 to ENCHANTRESS).

Orkneys. Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S.1514/30). Trawler lines tonight.(A.C.O.S.1536/30).

Rosyth. Movements tonight (C.in C.Rosyth 1546/30 and 2356/30).

Western Channel. Night report. (C.in C. W.A.1558/30 and 1648/30).

SWONA, SKUD III, SKUD IV, SKUD V) Sailed as by Adty.1134/22/11. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1637/30 to Adty).

JERSEY Sailed 1745. E.T.A.1800/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1904/30 to Adty).

BEVERLEY. BURNHAM. BRADFORD. Your 1202/30. Subject to no further defects should be sailed by 7/12. (R.A.D. H.F.2256/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

30.11.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

D.5. JAVELIN and 2 tugs arrived. (C. in C. W.A. 0436/30 to Adty).

NIGERIA enters Sound at 1730. When she is clear, proceed patrol Eddystone to Lands End to cover Shipping in Channel. Leave Patrol in time to comply with my 1944/30. JUPITER will join tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1550/30 to KASHMIR, KIPLING, JACKAL).

Arrived Plymouth JERSEY 0150/30, JUPITER 0239/30, JAVELIN in two of RETORT and ATLAS 0425/30, KASHMIR and KIPLING 1340/30, CONCERTATOR and TERRO TERCEIRO 1225/30. Sailed from Plymouth JACKAL, KIPLING, KASHMIR 1815/30. (C. in C. W.A.2318/30 to Adty).

Belgian Coast. Three 70 ft. M.T.B's are to operate between Flushing and Ostend tonight Saturday. If considered practicable Flushing Roads should be visited.
Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge.
If sailing after dark F.O.I.C. Harwich is requested to warn all patrols concerned.
(C. in C. Nore 1146/30 to BEEHIVE).

M.T.B's 22,30,31 sailed at 2011.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2016/30 to Adty).

Chasseurs Patrol off Anvil Point. Chasseurs 13, 05, and 42 to patrol between 2200/30 and 0200/1 off Anvil Point. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/30). Operation cancelled. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1808/30 to SO.Chasseurs).

Dover shelled. Coastal Batteries at Wissant and Gris Nez fired thirteen rounds between 0432 and 0443 today. Three fell to seaward of Dover Harbour and remainder are thought to have fallen on the sea off South Foreland. C 818 was in the vicinity of Dungeness at the time.

The second of these rounds brought the total fired by enemy coastal batteries to one thousand five hundred.
A further ten rounds were fired between 1405 and 1559 all of which fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery. (V.A. Dover 1746/30 to Adty).

.....D.21.

War Diary. 30.11.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd:)

D.21 — 2 Enemy M.T.B's bearing N. 1 mile course 010°. My position 52°25' N. 2°2' E.(Capt.D.21

Submarines.

PORPOISE. — Sailed, escorted by CUTTY SARK as by S.2. 2302/27 and 1556/29.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0945/30 to Adty).

Intend that Operational Control of PORPOISE be transferred to C.in C. A.& W.I. on her entering his Station at 0001/6 G.M.T. (V.A.S.1732/30 to Adty).

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/1. (V.A.S. 1631/30).

British Air Activity.

Straits of Dover. Rescue arrangements. — X.296. Nov.30. Limited offensive patrol by strong formation will be carried out by Fighter Command in immediate future of Calais-Boulogne Area. Request in consultation with Fighter Command full arrangements are made to ensure safety service is satisfactory in this part of the Channel for picking up pilots who bale out during air fighting. (Air Ministry 1201/30 to Adty).

Standard Air Patrols. — The following have been instituted as from 1/12 (C.in C. Rosyth 2244/30).

Air Patrols. — My 2244. Patrols for tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 2254/30).

821 and 823 Squadrons. Disbandment and Re-allocation. — 821 and 823 Squadrons to cease operating forthwith and then disband for re-allocation to other urgent service. 12 A/C with crews to Donibristle and rest to Lee-on-Solent as soon as possible. A.C.C.S. requested to arrange. (5th S.L.1529/30 to A.C.C.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy BOSOM — One A/C shadowing. My position 51°16'N. 1°29'E. (BERKELEY 0908/30). Enemy A/C shadowing in 51°18'N. 1°30'E. Speed 7 knots. (BERKELEY 0940/30). Enemy attacking in 51°20'N. 1°35'E. course 005°, speed 7 knots. (BERKELEY 1026/30).

....CILICIA.

War Diary. 30.11.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Contd:)

CILICIA. One enemy A/C.(CILICIA 0910/30) 2 near misses in 54°2'N. 15°42'W. One rating killed one slightly wounded. (CILICIA 0942/30 to Adty).

CHARMOUTH / RATTRAY (Trawlers) Attacked by large black A/C at 1330/27 G.M.T. in 53°30'N. 12°4'W. while fishing. 2 bombs, machine-gunned, and shelled. No casualties or damage.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1229/30 to Adty).

Convoy LOSS. 2 A/C shadowing in 50°8'N.4°19'W. (NIGERIA 1454/30) D.S.453 states NIGERIA was unsuccessfully attacked by 2 enemy A/C, one of which was shot down by fighters.

Liverpool. Air-raid on night 28/29 caused following damage. (S.C.E.Liverpool 1915/30 to C.E. in C.

Mining.

Thames Estuary. MILFORD PRINCE reports one Red Mine detonated 0410/30 in 318° Knob Light Vessel 1 mile. (Capt.M/S.0720/30 and 1019/30 to C.in C.Nore).

Owing to possible Minelaying, sweeps are to be kept out during passage of Q.Z.3.159 up to East Shingles Buoy. (C.inC.Nore 0758/30 to BERKELEY).

Denmark Straits. Request ships on patrol in Denmark Strait try to locate the 100, 200 and 300 fathom lines in view of Mining possibilities. (R.A.M.L.0946/30 to R.A.M.P). Do not consider instruments in A.M.C's can give information required.(F.O.C.N.P. 1558/30 to R.A.M.L).

Trials of Floodlighting Device. It was agreed that trials should be carried out in the Harwich area of a flood lighting device for illuminating low flying enemy mine laying aircraft. The apparatus has been installed but it is understood from the Air Ministry that there are local Naval objections to a trial.

Trials considered most desirable. It is requested that if in fact there are local Naval objections they may be reported and suggestions made for the conduct of the trials at the earliest possible date. (A.C.N.S. H. 1118/30 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

.....Your

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.11.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (Contd:)

Your 1113/30. No official objections have been raised but it should be pointed out.
(A) That it seems unlikely that enemy minelaying aircraft will be illuminated.
(B) That the position of the lights will indicate the Harwich area to night bombers. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1735/30 to Adty).

Operation G.C. (Little Sole Bank). Escort detailed JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING. Escort to R/V with ADVENTURE at 1330/1 in 515° Hartland Point 8 miles. JUPITER will join at 1745/1 in 50°11'N. 6°W. On 2/12 Escort to be detached in time to reach Plymouth 1730. (C.inC.W.A.1756/30 to ADVENTURE). Request Fighter protection (C.in C.W.A.1324/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

ICARUS. Intend sail ICARUS. ETA. Plymouth 0930. Route. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1857/30 to Adty) ICARUS sailed 2300 for Dartmouth. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2357/30 to C.in C.W.A.)

Swansea. Acoustic Mine exploded by S.A. Gear in TENARA 166° Flatholm Light 1.2 miles. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1300/30 and 1805/30).

Plymouth. Cancel my 2041/26. Plymouth open daily from 0930 till 1100 and from 1600 till 1730. (C.inC. W.A.1632/30).

Humber. At 1330/29 a Mine exploded in 101° Spurn Point Lighthouse 5 miles, presumably by D.W. FITZGERALD with S.A.Gear who was about 2 miles away at the time. No other ship near. (F.O. Humber 1840/30 to Adty).

CHESTNUT. (M/S Trawler). Mined at 1150/30 between Botany Buoy and East Margate Buoy, and sank at 1400/30 about 2 cables 240° from position of East Shingles Buoy. Acoustic Mine. Understood no casualties. (C. in C.Nore 1857/30 to Adty. and Cdre. in charge, Sheerness 2315/30 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat. Suspected in 52°5'N. 1°51'E. steering South at 0040. (C.inC. Nore 0109/30).

Main German Units. On 29/11. (D.D.I.C. 1553/30).

.....Unknown Unit.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (Contd:)

Unknown Unit. At 1646/30 in 60°15'N. 4°E. Probably destroyer or larger. D/F unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1727/30).

Start Point. At 2050, suspicious craft 5 miles East of Start Point. M.T.B. being sent from Dartmouth.(C. in C. W.A.2114/30).

Use of Swedish territorial waters by Germans. Naval Chief of Defence Ministry informs me, that according to international agreement all types of German vessels may pass through outer Swedish territorial waters in Sound providing they do not operate in military manner. Ministry point out that if German magnetic minesweepers passed nightly ahead of convoys it would be difficult to ascertain whether or not they were sweeping and thus Sweden might be permitting an unneutral act. All German ships, other than single merchant vessels, when proceeding northward must leave Swedish waters of the Sound before arriving at Swedish gate off Viken.

I formed the impression that Drogen and Flintrannen channels offer an alternative to both Swedes and Germans according to magnetic mine situation. Even Swedish coast defence vessels prefer eight metres depth Drogen to their own waters in Flintrannen now dredged to 7.2 metres.

I still believe Swedes do their best to protect the neutrality of their waters. B three report of November 20th states that six German transports whilst sheltering at Stromstad were inspected by the Swedes and on being found to contain troops and munitions for Norway were ordered to sea.

Moreover Minister on 26th had absolute denial from Secretary General that German mine sweepers operated in Swedish waters and I have again had similar statement from Naval Chief of Defence Ministry.
(N.A. Stockholm 1647/29).

Miscellaneous.

C.in C. H.F. Flag of Admiral J.C.Tovey, C.B., D.S.O. to be hoisted in BONAVENTURE at 0900/2 and transferred to NELSON at sunset that day.

.....Casualties.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.11.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

WILLINGTON. Your 1630/29. Cannot be sailed at present, owing to defects. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1125/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

CAROLINE MULLER. (Tug) Your 0045/30. Divers will be sent when available. Proceed to Millbay Docks at 1600 to-day. (C. in C. W.A. 1517/30 to CAROLINE MULLER).

Life-Boats and Wreckage. At 1300/29 about 12 miles South of Sande, BALMERINA picked up 2 lifeboats one with breaker marked KIRKHOLM, and CLAPHAM picked up one raft. No survivors seen. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1630/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET

30.11.1940
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
Positions	Estimated positions, N. Atlantic Convoys (D.T.D. 1110/30 to C. in C., H.F.)
F.N. 48	Postponed 24 hours (C. in C., Rosyth 2003/30)
C.E. 18	Arrived Southend with trawlers LE TIGRE and BENCAIRN (N.C.S.O. Thames 1426/30)
O.B. 251	WHITEHALL to join (C. in C., W.A. 0218/30) Cancel my 0218 (0500/30) FOLKESTONE to join, S.O., VISCOUNT, (C. in C., W.A. 1133/3
F.N. 47	Left Southend for Tyne with OAKFIELD (N.C.O.S., 0947/30)
F.S. 51	WINDSOR to R.V. (C. in C., Nore, 1124/30)
S.C. 14	Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1500/30)
O.B. 252	Sailed 1230/30 Escort, WELLINGTON, VANSITTART, VETERAN (N.C.S.O.Liverpool, 1305/30)
H.X. 92	Sailing telegram Escort MONTCLARE, S.H.X., ELK, LUPIN. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1115/30)
Bristol Channel	Cancel my 1130/7/11 and 0013/29. Owing to minelaying all merchant ships bound for Port Talbot or Bristol Channel ports to westward other than Milford Haven are to be routed to Swansea Bay. (D.T.D. 1229/30)
Sloop Escorts	Your 2030/16, discontinuance of sloops as ocean escorts, approved. (D.O.D.(H) 2301/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
Rattray Head	Amending his 1645/1/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1817/30)
A.M.C's	Your 1905/27. All A.M.C's either returning direct to Freetown on proceeding to U.K. should leave the convoy 24 hours before reaching R/V with the local escort. A.M.C's proceeding independently in the N.W.Approaches should be routed well to the north of the convoy route in order to minimise the danger of air attack. Requested you will issue a route to the ocean escorts. Risk of collision with out-going convoys independently sailed ships will thus be avoided. (D.T.D. 0143/30 to C. in C., S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

Appreciation. Admty. estimate of raider situation is that 5 of these vessels and possibly SCHEER are operating in various parts of the world. Descritions and details. (D.D.I.C., 0933/30, 1051/30, to N.A. Washington). See Vol. Raiders.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Repatriees. Your 1354 29th November. Personnel sailed from Singapore today 30th November. Expected to arrive Lourenco Marques 19th repetition 19th December. (F.O. Malaya, 05313/30, to Admty.)

VILLE DU HAVRE
DRAGON

Fuel remaining 55%. Unless instructions received propose re-embarking armed guard and returning to Freetown at 1100. Tug still in company. Position. (DRAGON, 0650N/30 to C.in C. S.A.)

Remain in company with vessels till further orders. (C.in C. S.A., 1027/30, to DRAGON).

466. Your 2352/28 stating further instructions would be sent, request very early decision. DRAGON has been standing by VILLE DU HAVRE since 1620/28 and will have to start to return Freetown in about 36 hours on account of fuel. No cruiser available to relieve her. (C.in C. S.A. 1029h/30 to Admty.)

My 2352/28. Certificate should be obtained that no part of cargo carried is of enemy origin and ship is then to be released. (V.C.N.S. 1400/30, to DRAGON)

MARECHAL JOFFRE, Repatriation. French Embassy request safe conduct for voyage French ship MARECHAL JOFFRE from Indo China to France via Madagascar and French West Africa. Ship engaged in repatriation of French demobilized soldiers, sick officials and women and children. Also request permission for ship to take cargo of rice to West Africa. (N.A. Madrid, 1845/30 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ENCOUNTER — Left 2335/30 for R.V. with MARSDALE. (S.O.I., Gibraltar 2350/30).

UTMOST. — Left in accordance F.O.C.N.A. 1242/28. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1852/30).

Germans at Las Palmas — My 1705/28 (German passenger aircraft arriving Gando Aerodrome). Both German aeroplanes left yesterday afternoon 29/11 full of Germans and Italians and their baggage. Destination not known but presume Spain. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1200/30).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN DESPATCH — Your 2225/29 to Admiralty only:- ROYAL SOVEREIGN and DESPATCH are to be sailed for Halifax and Bermuda respectively as soon as ready. Further signal will be made as to movements of other ships mentioned. (D.O.D.(F) 1224/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

NEWCASTLE — Admty. 0036/25/11, and V.A. Malta's 1929/25/11. Request instruction regards sailing of NEWCASTLE to Freetown. (F.O.C.N.A. 1238/30 to Admty.)

Your 1238/30. Engineer-in-Chief considers defects enumerated in V.A. Malta's 1929/25 are local and should not affect seagoing and fighting efficiency. Unless you consider otherwise, assuming that ship will remain off South American coast for six months, she is to be sailed in accordance with A.F. 0036/25. (D.O.D. (F) 1241/30).

TRIUMPH. — Intend to sail TRIUMPH on A/S Patrol in area South of Alboran p.m./30. In view of presence of Force H at Gibraltar TRIUMPH will not have orders to attack French surface ships. (F.O.C.N.A. 1252/30 to Admty.) TRIUMPH left 1730/30 (S.O.I. Gib., 1852/30).

TRIUMPH, patrol. — The area between meridian 003° 20' W. and 002° 40' W. and parallel with 035° 55'N. and 035° 30' N. is declared a sanctuary between A.M. 1/12 and P.M.13/12 during the period in which TRIUMPH will be on patrol. No submarine is to be attacked in this area during the period stated. (F.O.C.N.A. 1734/30).

BERWICK. — Your 1850/29. It is intended that BERWICK should proceed in accordance with my 0036/25 Para. F, accepting the fact that one turret is out of action.

/ Request ...

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BERWICK (contd.) — Request report whether necessary repairs can be carried out to make ship fit for service in other respects. (D.O.D.(F) 1337/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Air Report. — A.281 30/11. Daily summary operations. (200 Group, 1735/30).

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS. — Reported there are 500 pairs of binoculars among armament items on board Brazilian ship SIQUEIRA CAMPOS. These would be of utmost value to R.N. Ascertain unobstrusively whether they are in fact on board and report as soon as possible. (D.R.W.D.1831/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

RENOWN. — My 2113/29. Anticipate all defective H.F. conveyances will be renewed by 1200/5. Ship will be at 6 hours notice. (S.O. Force H., 2128/30, to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

EDINBURGH. — To sail 1600/30. Route. (For Scapa). (C.in C. S.A., 1015N/30) Left (S.O.I. Freetown 1647N/30 2133N/30).

BARON GAWDOR / AUSTVARD — Due Capetown 25/11, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1035 B/30).

RESOLUTION, Guns for Libreville and Port Gentil. — Admty. 0008/28. Arrangements for transport and mounting of guns from RESOLUTION at Libreville and Port Gentil. (C.in C. S.A., 1413/30 to Admty., 1439/30 to C.S.O.I.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH — Left Table Bay at 0915/30 routed Trincomalee, but Master would prefer Singapore direct. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

TORDENE — My 1008/27, overdue shipping, TORDENE arrived. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1624/30)

Suspicious ship. — N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0845Z/30 see East Indies.

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN. — Royal Netherlands ship WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN sailed Freetown 30/11 for Capetown via St.Helena. Ship will not now call at Walvis Bay. (C.in C. S.A. 1125N/30 to Admty.)

DANMARK. — My 1631/28 (Convoy sailing telegram) and S.O.(I) Capetown's 1020B/11. Ex Danish Ship DANMARK has armed guard on board from Australia and Capetown. I am of opinion that the Master is reliable and that the trouble with Officers and crew was due to fear of German reprisals on their families in Denmark. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1212/30 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UPRIGHT. PROTEUS.	Capt. S.1's 1413/28. Positions and route. (V.A. Malta to UPRIGHT, 1035/30). Movements of PROTEUS (V.A. Malta, to UPRIGHT, 1935/30).
Air Reports.	Summary No. 173 to 1200/30. No naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1136/30).
	Operation Expeditionary No.17. No naval items. (R.A.F. Greece, 1700/30). Malta report to 1700/30. No naval items (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/30).
UTMOST.	F.O.C.N.A. 1242/28. Route, and movements of PROTEUS. (V.A. Malta, 1939/30 to UTMOST).
Fire Ships.	Admty. 1733/23. Consider fire ships of this type could be used effectively against several Italian harbours. Suggestions. (C.in C. Med., 1503/30).
Air Targets From Malta.	Admty. 1029/26. Policy I consider desirable has recently been ordered in my 1305/27. Close range targets quoted in Admty. 1029/26 should not be attacked until Malta is better prepared to answer retaliatory action. (C.in C. Med., 1501/30, to Admty.)
VIKING } MARIE MAERSK }	Admty. 1316/27. Greek Govt. informs me both VIKING and MARIE MAERSK will fly Greek flag. (N.A. Athens, 1400/30).
A.S.7.	Convoy A.S.7 Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0932/30).
Reconnaissance Aircraft.	Notwithstanding Admty. 1845/5/10, Re aircraft at Malta. (C.in C. Med., 1237/30 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.
Reinforcements.	MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON arrived (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1358/30).
Operation "Collar" Action on 27/11.	Your 1006/29. Captain of Sunderland replies as follows. (a) Certain that three cruisers were eight inch and thinks they were BOLZANO Class. Almost certain three in number six inch cruiser of Italian Cruiser EUGENIO DI SAVOIA Class. (Three) Italian Destroyers GRECALE Class, the remainder smaller destroyers.

/ (b) .....

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Operation "Collar" Action on 27/11. (contd.)

(b) Only to Westward.
(c) Not knowing full area, may not have.
(d) Airborne, but not actually attacking.
(e) No.
(f) Think they were six inch cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 2003/30 to C.in C. Med.)

Appreciation of situation in M.E.

H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. A.222 30/11 No T.O.O. Rec. 2210/30 See Mediterranean Volume.

East Indies.

Suspicious Ship reported by LUXMI.

Admty. 2345/29 (Ship reporting intercepting QQQQ). No British or Allied shipping within 400 miles position 030° 30', 055 degrees.
(ii) Spanish ship MONTE NARANCO who left Durban 22 due Fremantle 14/12 is only ship who could be in this area.
(C.in C. E.I., 0012Z/30, to CARTHAGE, KANIMBLA).

Adty's 2021/29 and C.in C. E.I. 0012/30. From my plotting NOWSHERA from Adelaide to Durban would have been in the vicinity if she were running one day late.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0845Z/30)

My 2234/29. Subject to my receiving no further information, CARTHAGE is to arrive at Durban to comply with my 1156/28. Adjust movement accordingly, giving as much cover as possible to Mozambique Channel shipping.
(C.in C. E.I., 1902Z/30 to CARTHAGE).

HVAL I.

My 0704/27/10, and 1210/5/11. Kilindini reports whaler HVAL I unsuitable for tropics. Suggestions. (C.in C. E.I., 0720Z/30 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

DORSETSHIRE, Dante.

My 0502/28/11. Report of DORSETSHIRE re defences and naptha reservoir at Dante.
(C.in C. E.I. 1000Z/30 to Admty.)

Air Report.

Summary No.171 to 1500 G.M.T./30.
No naval items. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1817/30).

SOUTHAMPTON.

Will arrive Suez p.m./3 to act under your orders. (C.in C. Med., 1335/1 to C.in C. E. Indies).

Pilgrim Ships.

Your 1202/28 (propaganda re pilgrims) Government of India are taking action to counter propaganda in press and radio broadcasts. (P.O.C. R.I.N., 0655Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

/ W.S.4 E, Escort. ....

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.4 B.
Escort.

Admty. 2211/15. In view of possible scale of attack at present time it is considered desirable that W.S.4 B carrying about 24,000 troops should be escorted on departure from Durban by another cruiser more powerful than a "C" class or A.M.C., in addition to SHROPSHIRE. Suggested that DEVONSHIRE continue with W.S.4 B. until relieved by SOUTHAMPTON.
(C.in C. E.I. 1146/30, to Admty.)

W.S.4.

W.S.4 A and W.S.4 C less ALMANZORA to proceed from Durban to Suez direct and in company, to be called W.S.4 A. CORNWALL and KANIMBLA to escort. Route. (C.in C. E.I., 1154Z/30 amended 0654/1).

U.S.S.

Request you make following arrangements for convoy U.S.S.
Transhipment from QUEEN MARY to be effected at Trincomalee and from AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA at Colombo.
Transports should return to Sydney as convenient.
Convoy comprising DOMINION MONARCH, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and vessels provided by P.S.T.O. Bombay to meet requirements at A, to proceed to Suez direct.
(D.O.D.(F) 2142/30, to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

KAMOGAWA MARU.

Your 1210/18, (suspicious movements Japanese ship.)
KAMOGAWA MARU passed Sunda (Soenda) Strait northbound 0700/28. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0457Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

MAIMOA
PORT BRISBANE
KANGITANE

Add to my 0801/18, ships fallen into enemy hands. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0458Z/30).

ILE DE FRANCE,
Repatriees.

Admty. 1354/29. Personnel sailed from Singapore 30/11 E.T.A. Lourenco Marques 19/12. (F.O., Malaya, 0531Z/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Transfer of pendant. Intend transferring my broad pendant to CUMBERLAND at anchorage F.O. on 14/12. Oiler BROOMDALE will fuel you there on arrival.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1148Z/30 to CUMBERLAND).

IDARWALD and RHEIN, Patrols to Intercept. 171 S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 0915/29 and 0852/28 (Sailing of IDARWALD and RHEIN) Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship VAN KINSBERGEN leaving Nassau 1200Z plus 8 on 1/12 and proceeding patrol Florida Straits keeping to Eastward Longitdue Havana. CARADOC leaving Bermuda as soon as ready on 1/12. CARADOC and VAN KINSBERGEN rendezvous in position 090° Hillsborough inlet light 15 miles at 0700Z plus 5 on 4/12. CARADOC taking VAN KINSBERGEN under her orders and patrolling Florida Straits between Miami and Bimini till further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1202/30).

PRINCE ROBERT. Callao 1200/30. (No trace in W.R.) Proceed at best possible speed to establish patrol off Callao.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1542/30 to PRINCE ROBERT).

DIOMEDE Six hours early on my 1712/29. Require 10 days' fresh provisions (DIOMEDE, 1012/30, to N.O.I.C. Trinidad)
Leave Trinidad on completion of fuelling and provisioning 1/12 and proceed to Kingston (Jamaica) at 20 knots. (C.in C. A.W.I., 2222/30, to DIOMEDE).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA CARNARVON CASTLE QUEEN OF BERMUDA must proceed to Falkland Islands shortly to embark service provisions.
Suggest therefore that if CARNARVON CASTLE could be retained temporarily In S.A.D., QUEEN OF BERMUDA should proceed to Falkland Islands on return of ASTURIAS from Cape, and should subsequently visit Deception Islands vide your 2245/6/10.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1348/30 to C.in C. S.A.)

ENTERPRISE. Essential for ENTERPRISE to have 36 hours in harbour with steam off engines in order to make good defects before sailing for Cape. Intend therefore for ENTERPRISE to enter Montevideo for 48 hours on 11/12, by which date H.M.S. CUMBERLAND should be covering South American trade route. Highly desirable for ENTERPRISE to have a further 7 days refit at Simonstown.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1436Z/30).

/ French ships. ...

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

French ships.

Intercepted letter intimates that a ship was to leave Marseilles on 30th for French Guiana and another early in December. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1858/1.).

U.S. Bases.

F.O. Telegram No. 3190 of 23/11 to Washington. Admiralty fully concur in your 2151/6 and have represented as reasons for agreeing with U.S. proposals importance of provision of floating dock, repair facilities and base at Trinidad. From strategical point of view Trinidad is keypoint of whole American Defence Scheme, and its completion at earliest possible date is of great importance to us. Spring of 1941 will be very critical period, time is therefore an urgent factor.
Considerations in Governor's despatch of 22/10 have, however, to be taken into account, and it has been decided best course is, first of all, to ask U.S. to agree to Admiral Greenslade paying another visit to Trinidad to see whether alternative plan or modification can be agreed. (Head of M. 1638/30 to C.in C. A.N.I.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE
AORANGI

ADELAIDE escorting AORANGI with 200 air trainees embarked left Sydney 1550Z/29 for rendezvous vicinity 3 King Island with ACHILLES. (A.C.N.B., 0740Z/30, to C.in C., China, etc.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ELSA ESSBERGER
MINUETOU

At Kobe, disappeared today. No trace yet ascertainable of whereabouts. (Acting Consul Gen., Singapore, 08457/30, to S.O.I. Shanghai)

Ships in Bazilian Ports

Very little information has recently been received as regards activity of German Merchant ships in Brazilian ports. Report cargo and amount of fuel now on board (R.A.S.A.D., 1656/30 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro)

HERMONTHIS

German ship HERMONTHIS received despatches for sailing. (S.O.I. Callao, 1200/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

My 1200/30. HERMONTHIS intends to sail 0300 G.M.T. 2/12. Can Lima W/T routine be extended to cover this period? (S.O.I. Callao, 1505/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

S.O.I.Callao's 1505/30. On 2/12 PRINCE ROBERT is to keep W/T watch on Lima (routine If any information has to be passed after this time, S.O. (I) Callao is to route the signal via Esquimalt and Bermuda W/T for PRINCE ROBERT. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2147/30)

BISHOPDALE has been ordered to rendezvous with you in 12° S., 78° W., at 1200Z/7. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1722/30 to PRINCE ROBERT)

Information received that HERMONTHIS intends to leave Callao after dark 1/12. Keep a good look out, and if sighted try and keep in touch and report by W/T position course and speed in Merchant Navy Code. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2202/30 to SS LORETO)

IDARWALD
RHEIN
ORINOCO

Tampico reports IDARWALD and RHEIN are keeping close to coast of Mexico tosouthwards. ORINOCO expected to sail shortly (B.2) (S.O.I.Kingston, 1627/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

PORTLAND

A.2. report: German vessel PORTLAND expected to sail from Coquimbo tonight. She has clearance for Hamburg. (N.A., Santiago de Chile, 1900/30 to S.O.I. Callao) My 1900/30 PORTLAND sailed 2130 local time. (N.A.Santiago de Chile) (2335/30)

/KLAUS SCHOKE...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

KLAUS SCHOKE

KLAUS SCHOKE to sail. As regards stock at Ponta Delgada Jersey says have approx. 7,200 tons Diesel Oil, 6900 tons U.S.A. Navy fuel oil, 3,600 tons bunker C, or approximately one year supply of normal delivery. (Sparks, New York, no T.O.O./30 to M. of Shipping)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RECCA

N.A.Washington 1824/29. Havana asked for check of information of RECCA but consider unlikely report accurate as ship mentioned signalled from Havana time 1504/29 and no report made that ship sailed. (S.O.I. Kingston 0009/30)
My 0009/30. Havana confirm ship not sailed (S.O.I. Kingston, 0814/30)

PIER LUIGI

Departure, unknown destination (Varna 1130/30)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

GLENMOOR (Torpedoed 27/11)	No further information of GLENMOOR in position 54° 35' N., 14° 31' W., on 27/11
MOUNT ATHOS (torpedoed 28/11)	MOUNT ATHOS was torpedoed in position 54° 30' N., 15° 25' W., on 28/11 search should be made in both these positions before returning to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1043/30 to ENGLISHMAN)
BRUSE (Torpedoed 23/11)	Arrived Tugs SEAMAN and THAMES towing fore-part of BRUSE with cargo of lumber. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1507/30)

Submarines Reported

0354	55.45 N., 7.30 E., indefinite position (D.S. 452)
0407	56.30 58" N., 13.16 W., Indefinite position (D.S. 452)
0950	55°-57° N., 18° 21° W., Indefinite position (D.S. 452.
Estimated U-Boat Dispositions	Italian- 1 was in 52°-53° N., 15° 30'-17° 30' W., at 1907/29 probably bound to Gironde. 1 in approx. 55°N., 18° W., 1 in about 51° N., 15° W., bound for Gironde German- 1 was in 56° 30' - 58° N., 13°-16° W., at 0407/30. Probably one still in area 59-60°N., 16°-20° W., 1 was 55°-57° N., 18°-21° W., at 0950/30 1 was in 53° 35' N., 20° 33' W., at 1132/29 Probably 1 between 55 and 56° N., and east of 10° W., Possibly 1 in about 48° N., 8° W., bound for Lorient. (D.D.I.C. 1248/30)

SECRET.

PARK ROYAL

(For safe custody)

T.S.D. (Historical Section)

WAR DIARY

1st – 31st December, 1940.

? Incomplete between
24 – 21/11/40

SECRET

PARK ROYAL (For safe custody)

T. S.D (HISTORICAL SECTION).

WAR DIARY – November 1940.

SUPPLEMENTARY DIARY – 21/4/39 – 31/3/40
17/6/40 – 30/6/40

War Diaries, R of P etc, rec^{d} – Nov 1939
Dec 1939
Jan 1940
March 1940
April 1940
May 1940
June 1940
July 1940

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Torpedo-carrying Aircraft for W.A.

The operations of enemy destroyers in the Western Channel last week have called attention to necessity of a striking force of torpedo-carrying A/C being at my immediate disposal.
When enemy destroyers are located, chances of intercepting and successfully bringing them to action on a dark night are small They may often return to Brest after dawn, but surface forces cannot safely be used to intercept them off Brest in daylight due to danger of air attack.
Enemy destroyers are faster than J's and K's Torpedo-carrying A/C would often have an excellent chance of cutting them off.
The great importance of being able to distinguish between British and German destroyers in poor light makes it most desirable that a F.A.A. unit should be used. (C. in C., W.A. 2010/1 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Deluge

At 1130/1 (D.C. 1148/1) at 2330/1 (D.C. 2335/1)

Defence of Fleet Anchorage against Torpedo-bomber attack.

Reply to Admty 2323/29 (A.C.O.S. 1300/1) See Operations Volume.

Decoy Sites at Plymouth

Re. (C. in C., W.A. 1123/1)

Movements

VAN OOST

My 0845/30 (Sailing of A/S trawlers for Reykjavik) Name VAN OOST (H.M.S. WESTERN ISLES 0855/1)

A/S Trawler Search

A/S Trawler earching to Holyhead, Mimbles Head Rame Head (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 103 /1)

SOMALI
MASHONA
BEAGLE
BULLDOG

My 0957/30. Will provide A/S screen. (C. in C., H.F. 1055/1 amended by 1623/1 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/MOOLTAN.....

MOST SECRET.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

MOOLTAN — N.O.I.C. Belfast 1056/29/11 re movements. Request further instructions (F.O.C.N.P. 1160/1 to C.in C. S.A.) F.O.I.C. Belfast 1056/29. Will not be proceeding on service as A.M.C. Fuel, ammunition etc., should not be embarked at Greenock. (D.O.D. (F), 1259/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

CHARLESTON — Request be informed when CHARLESTON will be sailed for Port ZA (R.A.M.L. 1129/1 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

Nore. — Movements to 1200/2 (C.in C. Nore 1200/1 amended read. 1300/1).

JUPITER — Sailed 1056/1. (C.in C. W.A. 1212/1)

BOUCLIER, AMIENS — Admty. 1618/14/11. Intend sail BOUCLIER escorting AMIENS e.t.d. Needles 1715, e.t.a. Dartmouth 0615, route. Request you take BOUCLIER under your command on arrival (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1247/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

MACRI. — Owing mines off Tyne, return Rosyth (C.in C. Rosyth 1332/1.)

Dover. — Disposition night 1/2/12. (V.A.Dover 1416/1).

Portsmouth — Night movements (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1533/1).

TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT — My 1212/1. Sailing delayed until 0045/3. C.in C. W.A. requested make other arrangements for escort of TALISMAN. (S.2. 1601/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Western Approaches. — Western Channel night report. (C.in C. W.A. 1600/1).

Operations.

Destroyers patrol in North Sea. M.T.B's off Belgian Coast. — Harwich 1/12 arrivals CAMPBELL and VANESSA M.T.B's, 22, and 31 at 0904. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0909/1).

Destroyer patrol in North Sea. — Following received from D 21 at 2050/30 VANESSA and CAMPBELL in position one mile south of 54 F buoy steering 020° at 12 knots sighted two 'E' boats 2 miles ahead in swept channel steering similar course at slow speed. On increasing enemy made off at high speed to E.N.E. making smoke.

/ Star illumination ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Destroyer patrol in North Sea. (contd.)

Star illumination not very effective owing to smoke screens and haze but enemy was engaged during brief sightings.
Chase was continued at full speed with an occasional sighting through smoke until touch was lost 10 miles to the east of swept channel.
Sweep towards Smiths Knoll and back to No. 5 NX buoy produced no result patrol then resumed.
RD/F failed to detect until after sighting and lost contact immediately range increased.
High explosive on "E" boat increasing speed was distinctly heard. One very bright white magnesium flare fired by aircraft overhead during chase fell within 3 cables of CAMPBELL. White flashing light from aircraft was then observed to the eastward. Conditions were ideal for 'E' boat operations except that their engines could be easily heard on acceleration due to stillness of the night. 1130/1.
(C.in C. Nore 1434/1).

M.T.B's off Belgian coast.

Hydraulic steering failed in M.T.B.22 near Thornton Ridge. M.T.B.31 detached with M.T.B.30 to carry out sweep into West Schelde while M.T.B.22 returned. About 0030 about six ships were seen in approximate position 51° 28' N. 30° 10' E. apparently stopped and in a line 150°. Enemy probably sighted at same time and challenged soon after with red and green two star cartridge.
M.T.B. 31 closed to attack ship at south end of line who challenged torpedo seen to run under and target opened heavy fire as also some other ships not previously sighted. Also searchlights were burnt. The other torpedo was fired at next in line but had faulty discharge. M.T.B. 31 then went to north end of line and in 2 runs dropped 2 depth charges very close abreast a merchant ship of about 3000 tons. M.T.B.30 following was hit early and had hydraulic steering throttles and turret supply shot away and both officers and coxswain wounded. M.T.B.30 being unable to continue action returned to Harwich using jury steering.
M.T.B.31 remained in vicinity to find and assist M.T.B.30 until a signal from latter was received when she returned to Harwich. Visibility good throughout. 1149.
(C.in C. Nore, 1306/1.)

Cover for ...

MOST SECRET.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Cover for Operation C.Q.1. — Own destroyers will be carrying a sweep from Bishop Rock Light southwards along Meridian 006°W. tonight 1/2 December covering ADVENTURE operating near 049° 15' N. 009° 30' W. (V.A.(S) 1049/1 to Submarines Area P).

Submarines.

SEALION — Leave patrol 1800/3 routed 060° 36'N., 002° 44'E. 066° 37' N., 00° 46' E. and Cap A. Report when west of 002° 40' E. (Capt. S.6. 0955/1 to SEALION).

TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT — Intend sail TRIBUNE and THUNDERBOLT escorted by 1 Yacht from Clyde 0845/2 for position 270° Bishop Rock 10 miles. TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT thence to patrol. Escort to meet TALISMAN at 0900/4 in vicinity Lands End and escort her to Holy Loch. (S.2. 1212/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Positions and Movements. — For following 24 hours at 0800/2. (V.A.S. 1819/1).

CACHALOT — Admty. 1228/29/11 and 1633/1/12 CACHALOT to be sailed 3/12 escorted to vicinity Lands End (route) to patrol off Ponta Delgada in accordance with M.022797/40 of 30/11. (V.A.S. 2124/1).

British Air Activity.

Home. — No air recco. during night. (C.in C. Home, 0807/1).

A/S Patrols. — In vicinity St. Kilda and N. Rona returned to base, owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1010/1).

Air Recco. — With view to Naval action being taken against shipping following reconnaissances will be flown 2/12. (1) In area between 62°N. and 62° 20'N. and 04° 30'E. and 05°40'E. with special reference to Sund anchorage and Vanelo Cabel noting which direction ships are lying at anchor also routes taken by shipping round Statlandet. (2) In vicinity Kolbeinsfu Buoy 62°58'N., 06°33'E. noting routes taken by shipping. (C.in C. Rosyth 1528/1).

/ Air Patrols .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.12.1940. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Air Patrols. 2 routine A/S patrols (200 Group 1710/1 to Air Min.)

Air Searches. Norwegian Coast, Stavanger (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle, 1730/1 to Wick).

Coldstream S.A.2. S.A.3. My 2244/30 Patrols ordered for 2/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 1824/1).

Patrols St. Kilda, Rona St. Kilda not be flown 2/12 or 3/12. Two sorties of Rona patrol being flown in lieu. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1858/1).

Torpedoing. 1312 observed 1 M/V, 7000 tons, and 1 M/V 3000 tons in position M.F.C.P. 5949 course 270°. Attacked former at range at 400 yards, torpedo dived to bottom. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1912/1 to H.Q.C.C.)

821 and 825 Squadrons Disbandment and Re-allocation. Effect of your 1529/30/11 is that with exception of about four Walrus which must be withdrawn to their parent ships periodically no naval aircraft remain in Orkneys and Shetlands to seek out and destroy U Boats in the vicinity of main Fleet Base or on passage to and from the Atlantic. Also the air striking force to attack enemy warships and shipping is reduced to six Skuas. I am informed that the operational strength on No. 42 Torpedo Bomber Squadron at Wick on 30/11 was 3 Beauforts.
In view of above and of probability that enemy will endeavour to pass Merchant Shipping, raiders and warships through the Norwegian Fiords during coming weeks requested that No. 816 and 825 Squadrons not now required for FURIOUS may be sent to Hatston as soon as possible.
Also that when these two Squadrons have to re embark in FURIOUS after her refit endeavour be made to provide aircraft to operate from Hatston as A/S and striking forces and that these aircraft should be modern ones. (C.in C. H.F. 0942/1).

Suggested use of 816 and 825 Squadrons.

Enemy Air Activity.

CERVIA. Bombed 51° 30' N., 11°32' W. (Valentia Radio 0057/1.) and (Lyness, 1057/1) Arrived Valentia in tow (D.3.No.4590/7/12).

ASTRAL. Damaged by near miss, requires docking. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/1 to C.in C. Nore)

Norwegian Coast. At least 6 German A/C active this morning off Norwegian Coast, vicinity Bergen. A/C from 3 squadrons identified. (D.D.I.C. 1207/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

/ Southampton attacked..

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Air Patrols. 2 routine A/S patrols (200 Group 1710/1 to Air Min.)

Air Searches. Norwegian Coast, Stavanger (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle, 1730/1 to Wick).

Coldstream S.A.2. S.A.3. My 2244/30 Patrols ordered for 2/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 1824/1).

Patrols St. Kilda, Rona St. Kilda patrol not be flown 2/12 or 3/12. Two sorties of Rona patrol being flown in lieu. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1858/1).

Torschelling. 1312 observed 1 M/V, 7000 tons, and 1 M/V 3000 tons in position M.F.C.F. 5949 course 270°. Attacked former at range at 400 yards, torpedo dived to bottom. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1913/1 to H.Q.C.C.)

821 and 825 Squadrons Disbandment and Re-allocation.

Suggested use of 816 and 825 Squadrons. Effect of your 1529/30/11 is that with exception of about four Walrus which must be withdrawn to their parent ships periodically no naval aircraft remain in Orkneys and Shetlands to seek out and destroy U Boats in the vicinity of main Fleet Base or on passage to and from the Atlantic. Also the air striking force to attack enemy warships and shipping is reduced to six Skuas. I am informed that the operational strength on No. 42 Torpedo Bomber Squadron at Wick on 30/11 was 3 Beauforts.
In view of above and of probability that enemy will endeavour to pass Merchant Shipping, raiders and warships through the Norwegian Fiords during coming weeks requested that No. 816 and 825 Squadrons not now required for FURIOUS may be sent to Hatston as soon as possible.
Also that when these two Squadrons have to re embark in FURIOUS after her refit endeavour be made to provide aircraft to operate from Hatston as A/S and striking forces and that these aircraft should be modern ones. (C.in C. H.F. 0942/1).

Enemy Air Activity.

CERVERI. Bombed 51° 30' N., 11°52' W. (Valentia Radio 0367/1.) and (Lyness, 1057/1) Arrived Valentia in tow (D.S.No.4590/7/12).

ASTRAL. Damaged by near miss, requires docking. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/1 to C.in C. Nore)

Norwegian Coast. At least 6 German A/C active this morning off Norwegian Coast, vicinity Bergen. A/C from 3 squadrons identified. (D.D.I.C. 1207/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

/ Southampton attacked ..

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Southampton attacked.

Concentrated attack on Southampton starting 1845/30, following report received. Begins -
Heavy and indiscriminate bombing by H.E. and incendiaries has resulted in very large fires in the city, Woolston and Dock Area.
Fires not under control owing lack water.
Situation Southampton Docks. Management report the whole has been or is ablaze practically. 3 small ships and some lighters on fire. Also a great many sheds. Also Harland and Wolff extension yards.
Thorneycrofts completely gutted by fire.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1042/1 to Admiralty).

In severe air raid on night of 30/11 about 12 incendiary bombs fell within buildings of Naval Store depot Woolston, but were extinguished with negligible damage to stores and fittings. Storehouses K and O in old docks are undamaged and Naval stores appear intact.
(N.S.O. Woolston 1200/1 to D. of D.)

Woolston.

Reports indicate that area Naval Store Office is intact although building was damaged by fire in air raid of 30/11. Staff are safe. Area Naval Store Depot intact. (N.S.O.I.C. Woolston 1245/1, D. of S. Admty.)

Fuel tanks at Turnchapel.

My 1701/29. Position at 0935/1.
The five tanks that contained oil will be a total loss. The 6th tank containing water is standing and still holding water.
(C.in C. W.A. 1121/1 to Admiralty.)

Mining.

Plymouth.

Port is closed, mines (C.in C. W.A. 0624/1).

OSLO FIORD

Mined 220° ½ mile T.2. Buoy. Sinking. VIMY, tugs and lifeboat standing by. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0855/1).

ICARUS

Your 2257/30. Arrived (N.O.I.C. Portsmouth, 0935/1).

11th M.S. Flotilla.

Ops. carried out 29/30/11. 6 Mark XX exploded in sweeps 6 Mark XIV cut, S. end field. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1151/1).

/ Operation O.Q.1. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation O.Q.1.

Sailed 1055 JUPITER (C.in C. W.A. 1212/1). Sailed ADVENTURE for Op. O.Q.1. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1241/1). JACKAL (defects) proceeded 0800 from patrol to Immingham e.t.a. 0900/4/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1422/1).

BRITISH OFFICER

Struck mine 0700 N. Tyne Pier Light 4.5 cables. Being towed into harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1301/1).

Tyne.

Closed, minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1325/1) Closed, minelaying, ships for Tyne to Sunderland. (C.in C. Rosyth 1429/1).

Liverpool.

Port closed, suspected minelaying by enemy A/C. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1420/1) Port open. Anchorage forbidden S. line joining Bar L.V. to B.1 Pillar Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/1).

MAORI.

Firth of Forth. 1 mine exploded 56°03' 12"N., 03°01'30"W. while MAORI passing No.7 Reflector Buoy in Q.Z.S.175. Ship undamaged. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1601/1).

Hayle.

Mine 1415/1/12, 50°44'26"N., 4°59'30"W., spherical, horns red or rusty. (Custom Hayle, 2130/1).

Future Operations.

R.A.N.L. 1451/30. Proposals A. and B. concurred in provided that C.in C. H.F. can cover operations.
Proposals for subsequent operations generally concurred in. Not expected that Mark XIX mines for the forty series will be available before S.N.7, 8 and 9 have been laid.
Anti-aircraft escort will be required for operations S.N.15 and 16 in East Coast Mine Barrier. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1834/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

Enemy mines on Swedish Coast.

Information (A.1) indicates that, in addition to standard contact types, mines of following characteristics have been laid by enemy and washed up on Swedish West Coast (details).
(D.N.I. 1642/1 to C.in C. Med.)

Milford Haven.

Mine detonated 197° Great Castle Head low light one mile (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2222/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified ships.	Following have not been identified (details). (A.C.O.S., 1211/1 to Admty.)
Brest.	Warships in harbour at 1145/1. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1540/1 to H.Q.C.C.).
E. Boat.	1 unknown War motor boat distance unknown course 110° bearing 040° from Hartland Point 1 mile. (HIGHANTE, 1706/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

JACKAL. Defective. Sailing Immigan northabout for vicinity Wolfe Rock 0800/1. (C.in C. W.A. 0342/1).

HASTINGS. Seen in collision with LINDISLADE, 066° 50' N., 001° 57' W. Considerable damage, D.C. out of action. Returning Rosyth LINDISLADE proceeding Aberdeen (HASTINGS, 0730/1 to C.in C. Rosyth) Was in collision 1/12 with LINDISLADE, consider her to blame. Considerable damage to HASTINGS. (HASTINGS, 2030/1 to Admty.)

OSLO FJORD Beached 58'00°N., 1°24'W. (P.O.I.C. Tyne, 1130/1).

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM. In convoy W.N.46 for Methil and London arrived Methil a.m. 1/12 damaged. Was in collision with ST. LOMAN escorting E.N.34 about 0330/1 between Bell Rock and May Island. ST. LOMAN arrived Aberdeen under own steam, 1100/1/12. (C.in C. Rosyth).

FAME. Refloated, being towed to Sunderland. (P.O.I.C. Tyne to C. in C. Rosyth) 1947/1)

COVENTRY CITY. Still delayed by faulty D.C. Proposed she remains her for next C.E. Convoy. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/1 to C.in C. Nore). Delayed by faulty D.C. (C.in C. Nore, 2031/1 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Rosyth. Arrivals and departures 1/12. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2037/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions, N. Atlantic Convoys, 0900/1. (D.T.D., 1120/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

H.O.47. VANSITTART to join. Position. VETERAN to join as soon as relieved by escort from Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 0811/1 amended 1014/1).

S.L.55. / H.O.47. My 0811/1. 2 destroyers from S.L.55 to join H.O.47 forthwith. VETERAN, VANSITTART join S.L.55. (C.in C. W.A., 1110/1) My 1110/1. Object is to reinforce H.O.47 before dark. Positions (C.in C. W.A., 1132/1, 1424/1). Your 1110/1. ANTHONY and ACHATES detached at 1230 to join H.O.47. Position and weather. (ANTHONY 1700/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.N. 34. / H.N. 47. H.N.34, ANGLE and ST. LOMAN, additional escort HASTINGS (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0030/1) WOLFHOUND as additional escort. (Capt.D. Rosyth, 0023(1) Fighter escort for H.N. 34. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1030/1) Route. (C.in C. Rosyth 2357/1).

O.B.251. Disperse after dark tonight. (C.in C. W.A., 1058/1, to FOLKESTONE, etc.).

O.B.252. Route to keep clear of S.L.55. (C.in C. W.A., to WELLINGTON, etc. 1218/1).

Londonderry departure SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE, ST.KLSTON, WELLARD for O.B. 252. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1201/1).

H.N.35. / W.N.48. POWEY as additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1101/1).

H.O.47 B. After passing 08.00 W., to form 2 columns for passing through North Channel. (C.in C. W.A., 1148/1, to ROCHESTER).

F.N.47. Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne in F.N.47 to be diverted to Sunderland. (C.in C. Rosyth 1430/1, to LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON).

F.S.48. A/S trawler GREENFLY left Humber to join. (F.O. Humber, 1448/1)
GOSSAMER left to join F.S.48. (F.O. Humber 1617/1).

/ H.X. 89. ....

MOST SECRET.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

H.X.89. Arrived FLEUR DE LYS, WILD SWAN, etc., escorting H.X.89. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1501/1).

S.L.87. U-boat Report (See S/M's Reported).

B.H.X.93. Departure, Ocean escort MALOJA, returning to Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1143/1).

Troop Convoys.

BERGENSFJORD. Your 1034 BERGENSFJORD will sail as soon as possible in accordance with Admty. 2018/23. 200 troops will embark provided this will not delay sailing. Every effort being made to expedite departure which is primary consideration.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1622/1, to D. of S.T.)

W.S.4 B. My 2211/15 para. 3.
(c) Amend to read. Durban to Aden - SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE until DEVONSHIRE is relieved by SOUTHAMPTON (date). When relieved DEVONSHIRE is to return to U.K.
(D.O.D.(F) 2151/1 to C.in C's S.A., E.I., and Med.)

Icelandic Trawler. Icelandic trawler JOKULL (? RESS) arrived Reykjavik 0420/1. Chart examined on arrival showed trawler passed 25 miles west of St. Kilda. Seals on W/T room broken. Master admits disobeying routeing instructions and taking shortest route to Reykjavik. Request I may be informed condition of seal on leaving Fleetwood as master ascribes break to fair wear and tear. Investigation proceeding.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1200/1).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

VILLE DE ROUEN — Reported will sail from Reunion 5/12 or 6/12 direct for France. (D.D.I.C. 1723/1)

DUNKERQUE — ELI's Consul at Casablanca informed by a French Officer that latter "thought" DUNKERQUE had been towed from Oran to Toulon between 19/11 and 21/11. This does not tally with information supplied in my 1815/25, but presume it is possible that even if not "ready for sea" in general sense she might be towed across Mediterranean. (Consul-Gen, Tangier 1115/1 to Admty.)

(Note by D.N.I.:- 1815/25/11, ELI reports that at least 4 or 5 months will be required before DUNKERQUE can be made ready for sea.

U-Boats Request for A/C Reconnaissance — Following from Brazaville (begins) Colonel Parlent in report dated 29/11 from Libreville reports presence of submarine(s) off the estuary and has asked H.Q. here for planes for sea reconnaissance No aircraft available here capable of undertaking this task. H.Q. sending position of aircraft available which is only capable of doing very short range reconnaissance. (C. in C., S.A. 2311N/1, to I.C.S.)

North Atlantic

ARGUS — Admty. 0210/30 and my 2226/29. Enquiries completed. ARGUS ready to sail when ordered. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/1)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Admty. 1224/30. Will be sailed for Halifax p.m./1 (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/1)

Sails 1830/1, escorted by KELVIN and JAGUAR. Route (F.O.C.N.A., 1740/1) E.T.A. Freetown (F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1)

DESPATCH — Delayed with defective 6 inch gun. Probably ready 4/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/1)

/FIREDRAKE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

FIREDRAKE
VELOX
ARCTIC RANGER

Order for patrol (.F.O.C.N.A., 2002/1)

BERWICK

Admty. 1337/30. Damage in vicinity of explosion of 2 shells extensive. Repairs to make ship fit for service, excluding Y turret, cannot be undertaken with present resources of this yard. (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/1)

Your 1746/1. Necessity for hunting down raiders so urgent and shortage of cruisers so acute that we must work to an entirely different standard to that we have been used to. On assumption Gibraltar will do everything possible and that all possible assistance is obtained from the Fleet, report in what vital matters BERWICK's fighting efficiency will be defective on 16/12. Repairs to BERWICK are to be commenced forthwith. (1st S.L., to F.O.C.N.A., 2332/1)

NEWCASTLE

Your 1841/20. Consider that further isolated perforating may occur in near future but intend sailing NEWCASTLE in accordance with Admty. 0036/25 p.m. today 1/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1246/1 to Admty)

Sails 1830/1 for Freetown. Route and E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1740/1, 1830/1)

South Atlantic

HAWKINS
CUMBERLAND
ENTERPRISE

On relief of HAWKINS at dawn 4/12 in position 004° 00' S., 005° 12' W., CUMBERLAND is to proceed towards position 037° 00' S., 053° 00' W., at speed of advance 18 knots to rendezvous with ENTERPRISE as ordered by R.A.S.A.D. (C. in C., S.A. 0951/1 to CUMBERLAND)

BARON CAWDOR

My 1035/30. (Overdue shipping) BARON CAWDOR arrived (S.O.I. Capetown, 0955/1)

/CARNARVON CASTLE..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE — Your 1537/2/25 CARNARVON CASTLE visit to Rio de Janeiro, Approved. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1130/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOOLTAN — N.O.i/c Belfast 1056/29. Request action that is being taken with reference to your 1913/21 which states MOOLTAN will require 4 months refit to make ship serviceable. (1335/N/1.)

W.S. 5 A. — Estimates fresh water requirement of W.S. 5A at Freetown is between 5000 and 6000 tons.
A 14000 ton water tanker will be included in convoy if this will assist provision of water for this convoy.
Early reply requested in order that vessel may be prepared. (D.O.D. (F) 1941/1 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 4 B. — W.S. 4 B., Ocean escort DEVONSHIRE, CUMBERLAND, sailed Freetown 1700/1 for Durban by direct route E.T.A.

HAWKINS relieves CUMBERLAND dawn 4/12 in position 004° 00' S., 005° 12' W., CUMBERLAND then proceeds in accordance with my 0951/1.
HAWKINS is being detached before arrival at Simonstown to refuel and rejoin convoy before passing meridian 21° East.
(C. in C., S.A. 2011N/1)

Raider Positions — Indications of enemy surface vessels on dates given are passed to you for information in case you have no received them previously. 24/11 in th vicinity of position 020° N., 055° W., 17/11 some indication near Canary Islands. Other indications are that there were 2 raiders on East Indies Station on 25/11. (C. in C., S.A. 2045N/1 to Cdre. S.A. Div.)

FURIOUS
DIDO
RESOLUTION — Admty. 1531/25 C. in C., W.A. 2138/27 and my 1231/28 DIDO has engine defects which will not be completed until p.m./3. Intend FURIOUS and DIDO shall sail then or a.m./4 Date of RESOLUTION sailing will be delayed accordingly. (C. in C., S.A. 2047/1 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air Intelligence-Italy

Following from Air Attache for Air Ministry X. 309 1st Dec. Intelligence Summary 108.

Italy. Extracts from report written by M. 3. personal friend of Air Attache on 26/11.

a. Every available Italian civil transport aircraft is being used for transporting troops to Albania.

h. If British can spare a few more Spitfires and Hurricanes for Albania and Africa, Italians will receive a bad air beating.

j. Great effect obtained by even a single aircraft over Italy. The mentality of the Italian civilians is such that they go nearly crazy during the alerts.

The effect of bombing Rome would be terrific. Town itself should not be bombed but there are suitable targets on the outskirts of the capital.
(Mr. Kelly, Berne, 1125/1 to F.O.)

SOUTHAMPTON

SOUTHAMPTON will arrive Suez p.m/3/12 to act under your orders. (C. in C., Med., 1335/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

MANCHESTER

Intend MANCHESTER to leave Malta about 1600/4 following satisfactory air reconnaissance. Ship passes South of Skerki Bank to be near 037° 40' N., 006° 30' W., by 0800B/5. (C. in C., Med., 1341/1 to S.O.Force H.)

Cables

Admty 1657/29/11. Master of MIRROR states that a minimum of two and a half days working continuously and with fine weather would be required to complete operation. Continuous cover and close and substantial A/A and A/S escort would be required. Unless the matter is of extreme importance it does not appear to justify the risks and effort involved. (S.O.Force H., 1629/1 to C. in C., Med.,)

/Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

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/Air.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd

Air Reconnaissance

1/12. 4 merchant ships (with steam up) approximately 3,000 tons, near entrance Tobruk Harbour. 3 small merchant ships approximately 1,000 tons, 10 miles off shore from Ras Venn. One ship 2,000 tons close to shore near Ras. Not (corrupt group) seen Tobruk Bardia Roads. (202 Group, H.Q., 1645/1 to H.Q., M.E.)

Greece

Operational Summary No. 18. No naval items (H.Q., B.A.F., Greece, 1715/1)

Air Report

Combined services report- Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 1/12. All air operations cancelled due to weather. No enemy air activity over Malta. No military or naval items. (H.Q., R.A.F., Med. 1700/1)

Operational Summary No 174 to 1200/1. No naval items. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E. 1131/1)

East Indies

SOUTHAMPTON

C. in C., Mediterranean's 1335/1 (SOUTHAMPTON will arrive Suez p.m/3) Request you sail SOUTHAMPTON to Aden with all convenient despatch as soon as practicable after arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 06422/1 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal area)

LUXMI "Q" Signal

British ship LUXMI when in position 011° 44' S.,043° 58' E., heard the auto alarm signal followed by QQQQ -QQ. interupted, continuous wave transmissior. Commercial strength 4. Same relative strength as Mombasa Radio. (C. in C., E.A. 0706/1)

LUXMI in position 011° 44' S., 043° 58' E., report ar 0405/1 having heard auto alarm followed by QQQ at 1919 G.M.T. 30/11. Signal strength Q S A 4 ame strength as Mombasa V P Q. Transmitter interrupted continuous wave. (N.O.I.C.Simonstown, 0807/1)

My 0706/1. QQQQ transmission was at 1919 G.M.T./30 on 500 kc/s. East Indies coast wireless station heard nothing. (C. in C., E.I., 1014/1, to Capt O.S., Singapore, etc.,)

Your 0706/1. Request time date and frequency of signal. (D.D.I.C. 1027/1)

/Disposition....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies
~~Mediterranean~~ Contd.

Dispositions

My 0706/1. (1) Following are present dispositions in Mozambique channel and approaches.
(a) SHROPSHIRE in position 005° 15' S., 045° 06' E., at 1200Z/1 proceeding with Convoy S.W. 3. to Durban due p.m./5.
(b) CARTHAGE proceeding until 0900Z/2 towards position 020° S., 040° E., from Southward and then towards Durban.
(c) COLOMBO arriving position 011° S., 045° W., about 0001Z/2 and then patrol.
(d) CERES from Kismayu patrol to Mombasa for fuel and giving cover to ORONTES detached from S.W. 3 and 1500Z/1 for Mombasa. (C. in C., E.I., 1542/1)

Convoy W.S. 4.

Your 1154/30, paras 2 and 6. It would be preferred that escort in the Red Sea should be provided by ships of the Red Sea Force as in para 4 of Admty. 2211/15 and 2219/26 in order to free the large cruisers for anti-raider patrol or other offensive operations.
In particular it is important CORNWALL's refit should not be delayed. (D.O.D. (F) 1211/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

American Ships

Your 1844/11. In view of C. in C., A.&W.I. 1336/13 present arrangements should remain in force.
In addition to security aspect it is suggested that information obtained from pilotage service at ports would be more up-to-date. (Head of M. 1327/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

CITY OF DUNDEE Raider Report (false)

Following has been read:- Important, Armed Raider, 13° 46' N., 53° 53' E., CITY OF DUNDEE ordered to heave to by suspicious vessel. (CITY OF DUNDEE 1417Z/1) (D.D.I.C., 1651/1)
Your 1651/1. Suspicious vessel was HECTOR, A.M.C. (C. in C., E.I., 1656Z/1)
Your 1651/1. Request similar message may in future be addressed only to me and shore Authorities concerned in order that operational W/T lines to ships can be kept clear. Actually in this case I had received confirmation that the suspicious vessel was HECTOR before Admty 1651/1/12 was originated and therefore no difficulty arose. (C. in C., E.I., 1820/1)

/CORNWALLIS....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

COLLINGWOOD / INVESTIGATOR

Your 0436/16. (re exchange) approved (Md. of M., to C. in C., E.I. 1713/1)

Assab Reconnaissance

Summary No 172 for 24 hours ending 1500/1/12. 0600 to 0735 1 Glen Martin French Flight photographic R.C.. southern Eritrean Coast No changes Assab Harbour. Low level visual reconnaissance did not confirm boom defence thought to be seen by bombing aircraft on 28/11. All times G.M.T. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1839/1)

W.S. 4 B SOUTHAMPTON

Your 1146/30. Concur. SOUTHAMPTON should be sailed so as to meet convoy as far south as possible with sufficient margin of fuel. (D.O.D.(F) 2152/1 ro C. in C., E.I.)

China

Japanese Policy

British Embassy Shanghai No 47 to F.O. Fully concur we should start taking what legal retaliatory action we can by strictly enforcing every restriction and regulation in all British ports. (C. in C., China, to Admty 0531Z/1)

Situation in Indo-China

(C. in C., China 0851Z/1)

American & West Indies

BERGENSFJORD

Your 1921/22 and 1748/28. BERGENSFJORD very urgently required for troop convoy from U.K. (date and capacity) Request further endeavour to persuade crew to sail. Repairs and equipment. (D.S.T. 1034/1 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

PORPOISE (Sailing U.K. to Halifax, N.S.)

Capt (S) 2's 2302/27/11. Reqiest you will pass necessary information regarding movements of North Atlantic Escort Force to PORPOISE, and warn ships of North Atlantic Escort Force of PORPOISE movements (C. in C., A.W.I., 1052/1 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

MOTOU — Probable that French MOTOU, 2489 tons, which left Newcastle, N.S.W., on 12/8 bound for Noumea, New Caledonia, was sunk by an enemy raider in Pacific. No details are available (D.S. 453, 1/12)

New Zealand

ACHILLES — Departure Aukland 02302/1 ACHILLES for rendezvous vicinity of Three Kings with AORANGI escorted by ADELAIDE. (S.O.I. Wellington, 03522/1)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.12.40.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TRAUTENFELS. 6418 tons. Due to arrive at Leningrad on 1/12. (This confirms that larger ships are being used now in Baltic trade). (D.S. 453, 1/12).

SANTOS. 5943 tons. Made a P/L message at 0052/1 she had been attacked and torpedoed by a British M.T.B. at the mouth of the Scheldt. (D.S. 453, 1/12).

ARTEMIA. Is being sent with 1600 tons cargo, probably fruit, from Barcelona to Marseilles and Port de Bouc and thence to Genoa. (D.S., 453, 1/12).

HAMELN At Vera Cruz. Report to have ordered supplies for 30 days but had not commenced to take in fuel oil on 28/11. (D.S. 453, 1/12).

KLAUS SCHOKE My 1022/30 KLAUS SCHOKE refloated undamaged. Expected to sail 2100 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1027/1, to Admty. and S.O.I., Gib.)

My 1821/30. Following from British Consulate at Ponta Delgada: German KLAUS-SCHOKE expected to sail 2100 G.M.T. tonight 1/12 1027. (F.O.C.N.A. 1648/1).

My 1027/1. KLAUS SCHOKE sailed 2205 G.M.T. Course taken not visible. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 2017/1).

ITHAKA
ARKADIA German ships ITHAKA ARKADIA arrived from Russia 29/11. (Macrae, Galatz, 1147/30).

PORTLAND. Callao reports PORTLAND sailed 0130 G.M.T. 1/12. PRINCE ROBERT informed. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1306/1, to C.in C. A.W.I., etc.).

IDARWALD
RHEIN N.A. Washington reports IDARWALD in 020° 25' N. 096° 20' W. at 1315 zone plus 5, 30/11 course 072°, 6 knots, RHEIN 40 miles southward.
Cancel R.V. in my 1202/30. Proceed at 15 knots to arrive 023° 00' N. 088° 00' W. by 1200 zone plus 5, 3/12. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1021/1, to VAN KINSBERGEN).

Tampico reports IDARWALD passed Vera Cruz steaming south afternoon 30/11 (B.2). (S.O.I. Kingston, 1717/1, to Admty., C.in C. A.W.I., etc.)

/ HERMONTHIS ....

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

HERMONTHIS — If German ship HERMONTHIS sails before you arrive off Callao carry out an independent custody search as in O.U. 8415/39 page 40 assuming enemy speed twelve knots. Sector between 323° and 270° should receive priority attention. Callao pass via Lima wireless station to PRINCE ROBERT. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1851/1, to PRINCE ROBERT).

LECH KARNAK — My 1845/22 and 1842/27 LECH KARNAK German left here about 2200/30 destination unknown. (Bilbao, 1235/1 to Admty. (V.A.S., to S/M's on Patrol Area B, 2229/1) Passed to S.O.(I) Gib. (H.W.R. 1719/2).

FRANKFURT. — My report of fuel stock 1/11. German ship FRANKFURT received additional supply of 504 tons of coal at Talcahuano 30/11. (S.O.I., Callao, 1819/1, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ANTONIETTA COSTA 5900 tons)
CATALANI 2429 tons)
NUMIDIA 5339 tons)
SAMANDRIA (tanker) 5077 tons)
— Reported among 9 Italian vessels recently sunk at Otranto. Only confirmation is that first-named sent out an S.O.S. on 10/10. (D.S. 453).

ATLAS — Tanker, moved to an anchorage in the steam alongside ORINOCO at Tampico on 27/11. (D.S. 453).

DERNA. — Departure 30/11 VILLA DE MADRID (Spanish) and DERNA for Las Palmas, latter believed bound for Valencia. (Barcelona, 1625/1, to M. of Shipping).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SAGUENAY

Your 0454/1. (Asking ship to pass this to Admiralty) Following intercepted message. Whitehall W/T from SAGUENAY, have been struck by torpedo on starboard hand, (side) 054° 40' N., 015° 50' W., time of origin 0404 (ends) (ROCHESTER 0545/1 to Admty.)

Proceed with despatch to assistance of SAGUENAY reported in position 54° 40' N., 015° 50' W., at 0404. today Sunday. SALVONIA is also proceeding to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0800/1 to ENGLISHMAN)

SAGUENAY proceeding stern first HIGHLANDER screening. Send tugs and escort. 54.10 N., 16.47 W., (Weather) HIGHLANDER 0840/1 to Admty & C. in C., W.A.)

Sailed HUMAN to assistance of SAGUENAY (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0900/1)

Sailed SALVONIA to assistance of SAGUENAY (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0900/1)

Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SALVONIA have been sailed to your assistance both ships keep constant W/T watch on 500 K/Cs. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0902/1 to SAGUENAY)

Amended position of SAGUENAY who is proceeding stern first screened by HIGHLANDER was 54° 10' N., 16° 47' W., at 0840 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1012/1 to ENGLISHMAN SALVONIA)

A/S Trawlers FOXTROT, STELLA POLARIS SPHENE left Belfast 1330/1 to join you. S.O. FOXTROT. (C. in C., W.A. 1333/1 to HIGHLANDER)

Sailed A/S Trawlers FOXTROT, STELLA POLARIS SPHENE, to assistance of SAGUENAY. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1456/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

RINGHORN
(Attacked 28/11)

Norwegian RINGHORN arrived Belfast Lough damaged by submarine attack 28/11. No salvage assistance required. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1831/1)

54° 23' N., 20° 11' W., unknown vessel torpedoed, sinking. (Lands End Radio, 2317/1) Also received from Valentia Radio, with position 29° R 11 W.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0404 — A.F. message 54.40 N., 15.50 W., at 0304/1 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0810/1) (C. in C., W.A., 0752/1)

2342/30 — D.F. at 2242 G.M.T/30 Probable U-Boat in vicinity of 12° 00 N., 33° 00 W. (C. in C., S.Atlantic, 1211/1 to Cdre. S.L.S. 57 DRAMATIST) (C. in C., S.A. 1311N/1 to R.A.S.A.D., CUMBERLAND)

0020 — A.F. message 54.23, N., 20.11 W., at 2320/1 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0050/2)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 in N.W. Approaches probably north of 55° N., and west of 20° W.
2 south west of Ireland bound for Gironde.
German- 1 about [illegible]550 miles S.W. of Cape Verde Islands.
1 about 54° N., 17° W at 0400/1.
1 about 55° N., 23° W., at 1911/30
1 about 56° N., 20° W., at 0950/30
1 between 56° 30' N., and 57° 30' N., and between 16° W., and 18° W., at 1124/1.
1 between Faroes and Orkneys possibly homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1258/1/1)

Submarines Attacked

1250 — By ACTIVE. Your 1250. Continue hunt for present. VETERAN, VANSITTART are being told to report when they will join convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 1416/1 to ACTIVE) My 1250/1. Consider target non-sub. Rejoined convoy VANSITTART in company (ACTIVE 1535/1)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyer Sailing Dates — Your 2258/30. As every Destroyer is urgently required for service request you will advance dates of sailing where practicable. Main requirement of training to counter U-Boat attack on surface at night. (C. in C., W.A., 1120/2 to R.A.D. H.F)

VESPER VENOMOUS — In view of U-Boat activity and heavy commitment for destroyers on December 18th it is requested that VESPER and VENOMOUS may be retained till completion of operation of December 18th. (C. in C., W.A. 1706/2 to Admty)

ARGUS RAMILLES ECLIPSE — Admty. 2109/26. Will not be sailed to U.K. till further orders issued. (V.C.N.S. 1533/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/2. (D.C. 1130/2) At 2330/2. (D.C. 2353/2)

Movements

Nore Command Ships out of action — (C. in C., Nore, 0940/2 to Admty.)

JACKAL — My 2243/1. JACKAL is complying with your 1550/1, but intend leave Convoy dark 3rd to arrive destination daylight p.m./4. (JACKAL 1024/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

ENCHANTRESS — Sailed from Sheerness 1016/2. (C. in C., Nore, 1128/2 to F.O.I.C. London) Arrived London. (F.O.I.C. London 1700/2 to Admty)

KASHMIR — Destroyers return Plymouth forthwith with despatch. Report E.T.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1 34/2 to KASHMIR) You may be attacked by Surface Force. (C. in C., W.A., 1222/2 to KASHMIR)

/EXMOOR.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

EXMOOR, COTSWOLD, CHITRAL, SALOPIAN

EXMOOR with COTSWOLD pass Swithn 0001/3 to R/V with CHITRAL and SALOPIAN on 090° Butt of Lewis 10 miles at 1200/3. CHITRAL and SALOPIAN bound Reykjavik leave Clyde 1500/2 through Minches to position A. 61° N., 15°W Escort to Position A and thence return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1146/2 and 1657/2) SALOPIAN Movements from Position A. (A.C.N.S. T. 1251/2 to F.O.C.N.P.)

JUPITER — KASHMIR's 1100 E.T.A. 1520/2. (JUPITER 1200/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

WOLVERINE — Proceed at your best speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1234/2 to WOLVERINE)

PUNJABI — Proceed with despatch. There are signs of enemy activity in the Channel. (C. in C., W.A. 1238/2 to PUNJABI) E.T.A. 2300/2 (PUNJABI 1527/2 to C. in C., W.A.) Keep North of 50° N., till 0500/3. Arrive 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles at 0930/3. (C. in C., W.A. 1655/2 to PUNJABI)

FORMIDABLE, VESPER, VENOMOUS — Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1241/2 to Admty. My 1746/27. On completing defects FORMIDABLE to proceed Clyde to embark stores and important Freight in my 1336/30. Then to Scapa to work up and will sail about 18/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1524/2 to C. in C., W.A.) See Raider Volume.

ASPHODEL, CALENDULA, GERANIUM, JONQUIL — When will ships be ready to sail (C. in C W.A. 1320/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

VANESSA — EGLINTON's 1208. Propose sailing at 1600 (VANESSA 1356/2 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

Orkneys — Trawler Line Tonight (A.C.O.S. 1516/2)

Rosyth Area — Movements (C. in C., Rosyth 1520/2 and 2105/2)

Dover — Dispositions for night 2/2. (V.A.Dover 1521/2)

/KING GEORGE V.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

KING GEORGE V
SOMALI
MASHONA
BEAGLE
BULLDOG
ESCAPADE

Sailed 1445/2 from Rosyth for Pentland Firth. E.T.A. 0400/3 and thence to Scapa. (C. in C., Rosyth 1541/2 to Admty.) ESCAPADE with BRILLIANT proceed passing Switha 0310 tomorrow to rendezvous with KING GEORGE V escorted by SOMALI, MASHONA BEAGLE, BULLDOG due Pentland Firth 0400/3 (ii) when met relieve SOMALI, MASHONA. ESCAPADE take over S.O. of escort and act under orders of KING GEORGE V. (R.A.D.H.F. 2055/2 to ESCAPADE)

Nore & Harwich

Movements (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1629/2)

LEOPARD

Proceed at best speed till North of Lands End. (C. in C., W.A. 1648/2 to LEOPARD)

SOMALI
MASHONA

My 1055/1. SOMALI and MASHONA to be relieved in Pentland Firth and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1815/2 to R.A.D. H.F)

BEVERLEY
BURNHAM
BRADFORD

Your 1120/2. BEVERLEY and BURNHAM sail 6/12 and BRADFORD 7/12. (R.A.D. 2250/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

PEGASUS

Your 1653/2. Request you route ship and escort to arrive 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles Following alternative route if Plymouth closed. (C. in C., W.A., 2314/2 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operations

Operation D.N.

Prepare to order Operation in area Jaederens Point to Lister Light on 3/12 with C.S. 2. in ARETHUSA, AURORA, and 4 Destroyers of 6th D.F. (C. in C., H.F. 1817/2 to B.C.1)

Operation to be carried out as by my 1817/2 (C. in C., H.F., 2341/2 to B.C.1)

Operation may be carried out Night 3/12. Ships passing North of 58° 30' N., 3° 15'E., sweep between Jaederens and Lister, passing North of same point on return. (V.A.S. 2348/2)

/Embarking.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Embarking Troops

Your 1703/27/11. Lay~~g~~s considered unsuitable. Propose to use Gourock Pier. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1855/2 to Admty.)

Ostend

M.T.B's 22,14,67 and 68 to investigate Ostend Roads and attack without challenge any ships E of 2° 15' E., (C. in C., Nore 1914/2 to BEEHIVE)

Submarines

CACHALOT

Intend sail escorted from Clyde at 0845/3 from near Lands End and thence unescorted to patrol (S.2. 1033/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) To patrol off Ponta Delgada. Route from Lands End. (V.A.N.P. 1206/2)

Submarine Bombing Restrictions

Institute submerged SBR thirty miles each side of line joining BTFS 0000 CPCZ 3000 and GKZB 1000 from 0001/3 to 2359/6. Total SBR in Holyhead Sanctuary from 0800 to 1700 daily from 3/12 to 7/12 and extend SBR in Clyde santuary from 1800/3 to 0800/4. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/2 to 15 and 18 Groups)

O. 21
STURGEON
SEALION
SUNFISH

There are indications that an enemy force may move from Skagerrak to the northwards in the near future. Submarines proceed to vicinity of following position. Netherlands submarine O.21 18 miles west of Utsire. STURGEON 18 miles west of Kors Fiord. SEALION 18 miles west of Utvoer. SUNFISH 20 miles north of Stadlandet. (V.A.S. 1259/2 to S/M's Area A)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/3 (V.A.S. 1811/2 and 1051/3)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols

My 1824/1. Following additional patrols being flown: Stab Stand
In addition one Beaufort from Wick to Norwegian coast in 59° 02' N., then 20 miles Northwards and return. One Beaufort from Wick to Norwegian coast in 58° 15' N then coastwise to 58° 04' N., and return. (C. in C., Rosyth 0910/2 to Admty)

Milford Haven

My 1508/21/9 and your letter No 0389BB/3003/ M.H. of 29.10. Approval has been given to examine the practicability of providing a balloon barrage for convoy anchorage and outer Channel.
2. Request you will report limits of the area in which ships awaiting convoy are berthed and area of outer channel to be protected with reference to O.S. Sheet 99. (D. of L.D. 1045/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

Night Fighter Patrol

Arrangements made. To come into effect Night 2/3. (D. of L.D. 1307/2) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Air Activity

Thames Estuary

Fireworks seen night 1/2 (X.D.O. Sheerness 1215/2 to C. in C., Nore)

KILGARRAN CASTLE

Attacked by A/C 25 miles S.W. of Kinsale Head at 1236/2. (Valentia Radio 1236/2)

Southampton

Air Raid on night 1/2. Details of damage. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2 and 2203/2 to Admty.)

ASIE

(A/S Trawler) Some damage by near miss in Southampton Air-Raid 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

FEZZARA II

(A.P.Vessel- Bombed and sunk in Southampton Air Raid Night 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

NEIL SMITH (M/S Trawler)
GREENFINCH (Obs.Minelayer)
HAWFINCH (Obs.Minelayer)
PRESIDENT BRIAND (Minesweeper)

} Slightly damaged by Bomb Splinters in Southampton Air Raid Night 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

HOBURG

Slightly damaged in Air Raid 30/11. Two Dutch Schuyts and a coal barge seriously damaged 30/11 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2203/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Liverpool — My 1630/1. Vessels approaching Port should keep North of line joining Bn⊠ L.V. to B.1. Pillar Buoy (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1007/2 to Admty.)

Operation J.H. — Suggest you consider repeating as soon as ICARUS has completed present operation and if moon permits (V.C.N.S. 1149/2 to C. inC., Portsmouth)

Operation G.Q. — Proceed at your best speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1220/2 to ADVENTURE) ADVENTURE Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1746/2 to Admty) Operation G.Q. Completed. (ADVENTURE 1557/2)

Tyne — Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1422/2) Closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1756/2 to Admty)

Operation G.R. — ICARUS to lay 3 miles 360° from 360° Ile de Bas Light 6 miles on Night 3/4. Details (C. in C., W.A. 1704/2 to ICARUS)

JOLLY GIRLS — (British, 483 Gross) Mined and sunk about 1 mile North of T.I. Buoy. 4 injured. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1756/2 and 2311/2 to Admty)

Plymouth — Since my 1921/28 an Acoustic Mine detonated at 1010 by single L. in 140° New Grounds Buoy 1½ cables. Slight damage to sweeper. No casualties. (C. in C., W.A., 1817/2)

Berry Head — Heavy Explosion to E. of Berry Head. (C. in C., W.A. 1822/2)

Enemy Intelligence

Stadlandet — A/C reports Convoy of 13 M/V's just south of Stadlandet at 1100, steering 160° at 10 knots, with 1 Flak ship. (C. in C., Rosyth 1340/2 to Adty.) (V.A.S. 1431/2 to S/M's Area A)

Sogne Fiord — A/C reports Convoy of small Fishing vessels led by 2000 ton ship at 1127/ in 62° N., 4° 55' E., (C. in C., Rosyth 1446/2)

Aldeburgh — Patrol HU reports unidentified Surface Craft near Aldeburgh at 2222 (C. in C., Nore 2259/2 to EGLINTON)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

TARTAR — (Suspected sabotage) My 0124/29. Board of Inquiry being held on 4/12. (C. in C., W.A. 0953/2 to D.N.I.)

BOREAS (Norwegian, 2801 tons) — Sailed rescue Tug SEINE to assist in 240° The Smalls 10 miles (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1041/2) SEINE towing BOREAS arrived. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2300/2) Tugs unable to bring BOREAS into harbour. Will attempt at daylight (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0258/3)

OTWAY — (H.M. S/M) Struck by SS ST.MODAN while berthed at pier at Campbeltown. Slight damage (S.7 1044/2 to Admty)

ST. LOMAN — (A/S Trawler) In collision at 0305/1 with CITY OF HEREFORD in 056° Isle of May 9½ miles. Damage being surveyed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1121/2 to Admty.) Request Board of Inquiry. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1301/2 to C. in C., Rosyth)

RAJAHSTAN — (British, 6391 tons) One engine completely disabled. Am trying to proceed. Position 54° 51' N., 18° 46' W., (RAJAHSTAN 1138/2 to Admiral, Devonport)

WHITE BEAR — Crack in main steam-pipe. Request proceed Dundee for repairs. (WHITE BEAR 1426/2 to C. in C., Rosyth) Approved (C. in C., Rosyth 1629/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
F.S. 49 F.S. 51	M/LS 106, 108 and 110 were unable to sail in time for F.S. 49 intend sailing them to join F.S. 51 on 4/12. (F.O.Number 0922/2)
F.N. 49 F.S. 51 F.S. 52	GUILLEMOT to sail to escort F.N. 49 and F.S. 51 WIDGEON is to sail at 0800/4 and proceed to rendezvous before dark with F.S. 52 due Outer Dowsing at 1800/4. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2)
Information H.X. 92 S.C. 14 H.X. 93	Eastbound convoy may be met approximately as follows H.X. 92 escorted by MONTCLARE 6th/7th December. S.C. 14 escorted by FORFAR 7th/8th December. H.X. 93 escorted by AURANIA 8th/9th December. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1116/2 to PORPOISE) My 1116/2. For FORFAR read SALOPIAN. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1603/4)
H.X. 90	GENTIAN ordered to R.V. (VISCOUNT, 0830/2 to C. in C., W.A.)
S.C. 11	On time at R.V. List of ships torpedoed (see U/Boat Campaign) (D.T.D., 1803/2 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
H.X. 85	On time at R.V. all ships present. Cdre. reports very favourable on this convoy despite bad weather and alterations of course at night. (D.T.D., 1805/2, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
H.X. 86	On time at R.V. with 36 ships. S.W. winds, rough sea. (D.T.D. 1806/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
C.W. 16	Owing to enemy minelaying in swept channel between Folkestone Gate and S. Goodwin postponed until 5/12. (C. in C., Nore, 1844/2)
F.N. 49, F.S. 51	GUILLEMOT to sail to escort (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2)
Positions	At 0900/2. North Atlantic Convoys (D.T.D. to C. in C., H.F. 1123/2)
F.S. 52	WIDGEON to sail at 0800/4 to R.V. before dark with F.S. 52 due Outer Dowsing 1800/4 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2) Escorted by VANITY, WESTMINSTER. PRIMULA to act as additional escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1749/2)

/S.C. 13.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
S.C. 13	Meet 0900/4 unescorted. Position. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1311/2 and 2334/2 to WELLINGTON, SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE)
O.B. 252	To alter course at 2000/2 (C. in C., W.A. to escorts as for S.C. 13, 1252/2)
W.N. 48	To R.V. with CHITTY 56° 52' N., 7° 9' W., 1030/3 (N.C.S.O. Oban 1317/2)
S.L. 56	WORCESTERSHIRE, CALIFORNIA leave patrol to R.V. with S.L. 56. Position. Time. (F.O.C.N. P. 1414/2)
O.B. 253	Sailed 1358/2. Escort WALKER, WESTCOTT, HONEYSUCKLE, CANDYTUFT (N.C.S.O.Liverpool 1423/2) WALKER proceed to Londonderry forthwith to refuel and then rejoin.convoy. WESTCOTT, orders re fuelling (C. in C., W.A. 2055/2)
W.N. 47	Join Clyde portion escorted by one A/S trawler code word "Muster" (C. in C., W.A. 1550/1 to JACKAL, COREOPSIS)
W.N. 47 (O)	Running as separate convoy (N.C.S.O. Oban 1602/2 to Admty.)
H.X. 91	Cancel route ordered and sustitute (D.T.D. 1802/2 to REVENGE)
S.C. 14	Left Sydney C.B., at 1200 A.S.T./30. Endeavour to intercept on your return voyage and report if diversion understood. SALOPIAN is joining as ocean escort in about 35° W., (D.T.D., 1802/2, to REVENGE)
W.N. 49	Code "Rusty" Escorts unappropriated. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1226/2)
H.G. & O.G. speed of ships	Ships of less than 1,000 tons gross not to be accepted for H.G. and O.G. convoys unless capable of speed of at least 10 knots loaded. (D.T.D. 1234/2)
F.S. 49	SHELDRAKE to meet (C. in C., Nore, 1200/2)

/Troop Convoys.....

MOST SECRET

2.12.1940
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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 (A)

Convoy W.S. 5 (A) will leave the U.K. on (date)

2. Included in the convoy will be at least thirty ships carrying personnel and valuable M.T.

3. C. in C., W.A. is requested to state maximum number of destroyers he can provide from his command and whether he considers this escort adequate.

4. On breaking off from W.S. 5 (A) escort will be required to R/V with and bring in Convoy T.C. 8. (D.O.D. (H) 1545/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

Shipping
At Scapa

Your 1150/25. Arrangements have been made to reduce traffic of non-British vessels to Scapa as far as possible and that such vessels shall be acceptable from the security point view (D.T.D., to A.C.O.S. 1104/2)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Warships in Beirut.

One French S/M left Beirut some days ago not returned.
French Warships now in Port are Light Cruisers GUEPARD VALMY Sloop M/S ANNAMITE LA GRANDIERE S/M's DAUPHIN Oiler ADOUR. (Consul General Beyrout 1001/2 to Admty.)

Interception of French Ships.

312. Your 1916/27/11. French ship VILLE DE TANATAVE to be intercepted. In these and similar cases it is intended to instruct warships on North Atlantic station to place armed guard on such vessels if encountered. They will be directed to U.K. if possible, otherwise Gibraltar and risk of interception by French patrolling craft with consequent loss of an armed guard will be accepted. French patrol and escort ships are liable to be encountered off St. Vincent. (F.O.C.N.A. 1652/2 to Admty.)

CUBA.

The Senior Naval Officer in French ship CUBA has represented that conditions under which personnel are confined in that ship are inferior to those which would normally be accorded to prisoners of war or internees. Ship undoubtedly overcrowded and general conditions poor.
Adequate stocks of provisions have been supplied but personnel on board have no money to buy cigarettes or any smaller requirements. The policy in circumstances as these not known and it is requested I may be informed whether some small scale of cash payment together with an issue of service tobacco may be allowed. Ship has now been in custody for a month.
(C.in C. S.A. 1947N/2, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

Sailed 1600/30/11 from Freetown to Scapa (route) (F.O.C.N.A. 0932/2). C.in C. S.A. 1015/30/11. Request signal EDINBURGH onward routeing instructions from position (11) Orlock Head. (F.O.C.N.A. 1808/2 to C.in C. W.A.).

JERSEY.

Arrived Gibraltar 1615/2. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1615/2).

WISHART.

Departed Gibraltar 1830/2 to R/V with DEPTFORD. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1900/2)

/ SERPA PINTO .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

SERPA PINTO (Portuguese)

My 1527 29/11. SERPA PINTO left Santos 30/11 due Freetown 7/12 or 8/12. Master has never applied to me for route instructions on his normal voyages and possibly has not done so at Santos on this occasion. Number of berths available not yet known. Request may be informed urgently name of reliable shipping agent at Freetown.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1500/2 to N.S.O.(I) Freetown).

Your 1500/2, last sentence. Sierra Leone Coaling Company (telegraphic address Coaling Sierra Leone). (S.O.I. Freetown, 0931N/3).

South Atlantic.

ITAPE, 22 Germans Removed.

As CARNARVON CASTLE has removed 22 Germans from Brazilian ITAPE her visit to Rio de Janeiro must be postponed about 4 days pending their transfer elsewhere. Report any local reactions. (Cdre. S.A.D. to N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 0111Z/2).
Your 0801Z/1. You cannot be spared to proceed Freetown. R.V. with QUEEN OF BERMUDA in 28° S., 45° W. at 1200Z/4 and transfer 22 Germans to her.
On completion of transfer proceed Rio de Janeiro to refuel informing N.A. Rio E.T.A. Report position where ITAPE was intercepted. (Cdre. S.A.D., 0104Z/2 to CARNARVON CASTLE). CARNARVON CASTLE 0801Z/2 and R.A.S.A.D. 0111Z/2 passed to you for information (C.in C. S.A. 1056/2 to Admty.)

MEROPI.

My 1806/29/11. Arrived Montevideo 30/11. (F.O.(I) Freetown 0752/2).

ROSS, CLAN MACWHIRTER

Due Capetown 27/11 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1105/2).

Convoys
S.L.38
S.L. (Slow) 38

Your 1944/30/11. R/V in 034° 40' N., 018° 50' W. at 0900/24/12 and 0900/25/12 G.M.T. respectively. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1118/2 to Admty.)

HEIYO MARU

My 1002 2/12, (Addressed PRINCE ROBERT) Japanese ship HEIYO MARU sailed for Paita 1700 G.M.T. 2/12.
(Callao, 1201/2 to D.N.I.)

HERMONTHIS
HEIYO MARU
VENICE MARU
PRINCE ROBERT

Report (A.2) German ship HERMONTHIS has postponed sailing temporarily. HEIYO MARU due to leave Callao 1700 G.M.T. 2/12 ? reluctant to leave. VENICE MARU due to arrive Callao 1900 G.M.T. 2/12 from Guayaquil. Suggest PRINCE ROBERT gives wide berth while patrolling.
(S.O.(I), Callao, 1527/1 to PRINCE ROBERT)

/ A/S Vessels for ..

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

A/S Vessels for Mediterranean.

My 1752B/25/11. Owing to Governments engagement to Parliament not to send organised forces outside Africa impossible for four A/S Vessels to be loaned to R.N. except on following conditions. (Details)
I am endeavouring to ascertain if guarantee of employment in North African waters only (for example Alexandria) would meet the difficulty. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1705/2 to Admty.).

DORSETSHIRE, defects.

Have developed excessive vibration Port inner propeller necessitating trailing this shaft. Suspect propeller blade. My position course and speed are 032° 07' S. 029° 30' E. 223°, 17 knots maximum except in emergency. (DORSETSHIRE, 1915Z/2, to Capt. i/c Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

2.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Battleships. It is reported that 2nd B.S. consisting of ANDREA DORIA and VITTORIO VENETO are now at Spezzia after having been engaged South of Sardinia on 27/11 B.1. (Capt: C.S. Alexandria 0902/2).

Convoy A.N.8. Escorted by VOYAGER and VENDETTA, left Alexandria and Port Said 2/12 for Piraeus. CALCUTTA joins a.m./4. 3 C.S. covering the passage. (D.O.R. 4/12).

Leghorn. Admty. 1558/28. Bombing oil storage at Leghorn. Request your remarks. My 1545/18/11 is being passed to you. (C.in C. Med. 1121/2 to S.O.Force H.)

Route for UTMOST. Amendment to 1939/30. (N.O.I.C.Malta 1229/2).

Air Reconnaissance. Brindisi 1012 2-1/2. Convoy 11 large merchant ships leaving harbour. 3-6inch cruisers, 9 destroyers inner harbour. Taranto. LITTORIO battleships moved to entrance of harbour no nets round, 4 cruisers in inner harbour. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1417/2).

Air Operation. 1/12, 2 Blenheims attacked 100 aircraft on aerodrome at Benina destroying 2, damaging 2. 4 ships 3000 tons anchored off Tobruk. 3 ships 1000 tons, 1 ship 2000 tons off Ras Venna. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1447/2).

Dodecanese. Questions raised in my 1241/17/11 (T.H.I. 2008/17) becoming increasingly urgent. Asking for policy re future of islands. (C.in C. Med. 1645/2 to Adty).

Italian Morale. Details from Turkey secret source, period 18/11-25/11 (Wolffson 1915/2).

Movements. Summary No.172 (C.in C. Med. 1740/2).

MANCHESTER. On passage to U.K. left Alexandria 1400/2 for Suda Bay. (D.O.R.4/12).

MOST SECRET.

2.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Battleships.

It is reported that 2nd B.S. consisting of ANDREA DORIA and VITTORIO VENETO are now at Spezzia after having been engaged South of Sardinia on 27/11 B.1. (Capt: O.S. Alexandria 0902/2).

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MOST SECRET.

2.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Roumanian Ships.

Your 1225/11 28/11 and Wolffson's 1226/28. Agree most desirable the ships should be got out of the Black Sea If they can be induced to sail for any port in Mediterranean their interception will be arranged. Question of purchase or seizure can then be decided whilst they are being held for contraband control.
(C.in C. Med., 1445/2, to N.A. Angora).

Italian Intelligence.

Ankara reports B.3 Italians intend shortly bombarding Amyrgos and Nikaria Island from Thesea. Governor General of Dodecanese Vecchi using Aeroplanes painted Greek colours for local flights. Trouble expected from Dodecanese population owing to food shortage.
(Capt: on Staff Alexandria 1519/2).

Motor Craft.

My 1429/16 and 1225/15/11. Can any reply now be given regarding provision of these M.T.B's and fast motor craft. Our occupation of Crete greatly increases possibility of profitable employment of such craft.
(C.in C. Med. 1647/2 to Adty).

Operation "Collar" Points of Interest.

My 1207/17/11. Operation M.B.9. (COLLAR). Apart from operation reported in my 1307/26/11. Following were matters of interest.

1. F.O.C. 3rd C.S. reported hearing three muffled explosions at 2334/27 when in 036° 00'N., 013° 55' E. This attack presumably by a submarine was probably the basis of the Italian claim to have sunk a convoy of 3 ships. This is the third recent report of muffled explosions followed by extravagant Italian submarine claims and it appears they are firing at long range probably from the Deep, the torpedoes exploding at (? end) of their run.

3. From W/T interception there was considerable enemy activity in the Narrows during the night of 27/28 but no report from our ships of any attack.

4. While first div. 1st B.S. and ILLUSTRIOUS and 3rd C.S. were westw. of Malta on 28/11 there was considerable air activity which chiefly took the form of attack on Malta but six J.U. 87 K Dive bombers attacked GLASGOW and

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operation "COLLAR" Points of Interest. (Contd.)

obtained near miss, but caused no damage or casualties. One Dive Bomber was shot down by GLASGOW. 6 of ILLUSTRIOUS's Fulmars intercepted 6 C.R. 42's. Fulmars claim one certain shot down and two damaged. 3 Fulmars slightly damaged but serviceable same day. It is Fulmars' first fighter engagement.

5. Corvette and one destroyer remained at Malta with engine defects otherwise programme completed as planned. An important feature was that except for aircraft mentioned in paragraph 4 and in paragraph 4 of my 1307/26, no enemy aircraft were sighted East of Malta throughout operation by any unit nor does there appear to have been any shadowing.
(C.in C. Med. 1657/2).

Aircraft Reconnaissance.

I.137 2/12. Combined services report - Malta up to 1700 hours 2/12. All times G.M.T. reconnaissance reported sighted at 0950 convoy of 11 M/V, of 8,000 tons each coming out of Brindisi. In Brindisi harbour - 3 6-inch cruisers and 9 destroyers. No obvious result of damage by Wellington operations referred to in my I.131 29/11 Taranto. LITTORIO battleship in outer harbour has been moved towards entrance of harbour and is now without nets and supports. CAVOUR battleship still supported in outer harbour - still with tilt - unable to see others on account of clouds. 4 cruisers in inner harbour.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1720/2).

A.89 2/12 X.6232. Operational Summary 19. 9 Blenheim aircraft raided Valona p.m./2/12. A large building was hit and one part left in flames. Very large explosion was seen indicating something more than bombs going off and black smoke seen from wharf area. Main jetty, seaplanes damaged. Other buildings hit and one small ship in harbour. Photographs confirm damage to jetty, hit on ship alongside jetty and very near miss on one other, also hits in ammunition dump area. One C.R.42 believed shot down from large enemy fighter formation which made persistent attacks. One of our aircraft forced landed at Araxos, crew safe, aircraft believed damaged.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Greece 1751/2).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Boom Defence Vessels for Turkey.

Turks are pressing for delivery of 5 BAR Class Boom Vessels and 3 Boom trawlers. It is not at present possible for boom craft to make passage to Mediterranean, but as a gesture BARSETTE might be transferred if Suda Bay defences can be run from Mediterranean resources reinforced by BURGONET. Request your views.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1944/2 to C.in C. Med.)

Orders to UPRIGHT.

MANCHESTER expects to arrive Malta a.m./4. Keep Northwards 035° 42'N., before entering searched channel and do not enter sanctuary before 0200.
(V.A.Malta 2113/2 to UPRIGHT).

Greek Troop Transport.

42nd. Regiment 37th. Modena Division embarked at Anconna arrived at Valona 14/11. Ship was escorted by small torpedo boat and one aeroplane.
(M.A. Athens, 2215/2 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Pilgrim Ships. MICE No. 9023, 30/11 being passed to you with reference to my 1202/28.
These ships are made safer by being put into convoy because enemy are sinking indiscriminately. On other hand, these ships in convoy render themselves liable to legitimate attack. If any information is given to Italians, therefore, I suggest it should be no more than name of ships carrying pilgrims. By reason of enemy right of visit and search this will at least remove excuse for sinking of ships bot in convoy which have left a convoy. (C.in C. E.I., 0544Z/2, to Admty.)

COLOMBO (i) COLOMBO is to proceed now to Durban to arrive p.m./6.

CARTHAGE orders. (ii) CARTHAGE is to proceed now to Durban at best speed and is to (5 groups omitted) sailing of C.M.7 is to be delayed accordingly.
(C.in C. E.I. 0640Z/2 to Force W.)

Dante. My 0502/28/11. DORSETSHIRE's report as follows. (Re Defences of Dante and best method of attack) (C.in C. E.I. 1000Z/30).

CERES. CERES to leave Mombasa p.m./3 and proceed Mahe, Seychelles passing through positions 011° S. 045° E. and 011° 40'S. 050°E. adjusting speed to arrive 8/12. CLYDESFIELD is being sent to Mahe from Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I., to Force W. 1216/2).

Convoy W.S.4. Your 1211/1 Red Sea escorts will be reconsidered and I hope to arrange accordingly without convoys being delayed. My chief concern is to give good A.A. protection to such valuable convoys. (C.in C. E.I. 12342/2 to Adty.)

America and West Indies.

22 German prisoners removed from ITAPE. Your 0301Z/1. Object is protection of trade. You cannot therefore be spared to proceed to Freetown. Rendezvous with QUEEN OF BERMUDA in 028° S. 045° W. at 1200Z/4 and transfer 22 German prisoners to her. QUEEN OF BERMUDA conform and retain prisoners pending further instructions. On completion of transfer CARNARVON CASTLE proceed to Rio de Janeiro to refuel. Report position where ITAPE was intercepted. 0114Z/2.

/ CARADOC .....

MOST SECRET.

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

CARADOC. Bermuda 1/12 departure CARADOC in accordance with my 1202/30/11 to arrive Florida Straits a.m./4. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0903/2).

SANDWICH. SANDWICH has not yet arrived at Sydney Cape Breton. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1438/2).

LISIEUX
EUGENA CAMPANIS
Lost at sea

My 1721/22 (S.C. draft sailing telegram) LISIEUX and EUGENA CAMBANIS reported lost at sea. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B., 0921/2). LISIEUX was in Convoy S.C.13 in Mid-Atlantic (D.O.R., 29/11).

N.C.S.O. Sydney's 0921/2 British URLA has reported by W/T she has crew of EUGENA CAMBANIS on board and is proceeding to St. John's, also reported Steamship BERNHARD proceeding to St. John's has 15 survivors of LISIEUX including four Officers. Also two dead.
Greek KATHARIOTISSA picked up one survivor of LISIEUX not known whether KATHIOTISSA is now proceeding.
N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1733/2 to Admty.)

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War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

KLAUS SCHOKE captured by CALIFORNIA.

My 1648. Ship sailed 2205 G.M.T., destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A. 0059/2.) KLAUS SCHOKE sailed from Ponta Delgada 2200/1, destination unknown. (V.A.S., 0724/2 to S/M's, Area B). (D.D.I.C., 0858/2 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A., etc.)

Captured KLAUS SCHOKE in 38° 28' N. 22° 15' W. Engine and boiler room flooded beyond control but bulkhead stands and hope to save ship and get in tow at daylight. Crew abandoned in great hurry and did not make good job of scuttling. Request permission to tow Azores for necessary assistance otherwise Gibraltar. (CALIFORNIA 2328/2).

HERMONTHIS.

My 1527 December 1st. Port authorities announced in Press HERMONTHIS sails noon today. HEIYO MARU sails same time please give additional Lima routine 1800 to 1830 G.M.T. today only. Peruvian Cruiser GRAU proceeded to sea. (N.S.O.(I) Callao 1002/2 to PRINCE ROBERT).

HERMONTHIS has postponed sailing temporarily (S.O.(I) Callao 1527/1).

My 1002/2 HERMONTHIS has received orders cancel sailing although pilot was actually on board and all papers signed. (N.S.O.(I) Callao 1540/2).

ARKADIA
ITHAKA

ARKADIA and ITHAKA arrived with 2,200 and 3,000 tons of Manganese Ore. (Macrae, Galatzi 1124/2).

SALZBURG

Departure German SALZBURG Braila. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1159/1.)

Following German ships have recently sailed Reference C.A.F.O. No. 422/40

772 HELGOLAND? 28/10 Puerto Colombia
813 RIO GRANDE 31/10 Rio Grande Do Sul.
318 and 577 IDARWALD 29/11 & RHEIN. Tampico.
547 PORTLAND 30/11 Coquimbo.

(C.in C. W.A. 1324/2 to BULOLO, DEPTFORD).

LECH
KARNAK
CAMPOAMOR
ARTIGAS

Departure Colon 29/11 LECH,
KARNAK 30/11 departure:-
CAMPOAMOR Gijon 1/12
ARTIGAS 1/12.
(Bilbao 1816/2).

IDARWALD
RHEIN

IDARWALD at 1700Z plus 5 on 1/12 position 020° 56'N. 093° 54' W. Course and Speed made good since 1315 plus 5 was 077° 5.2 knots. RHEIN at 1930Zplus 5 first December off Puerto Mexico following coast line speed 7 knots. Funnel now black.

/ Each ship ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

IDARWALD
RHEIN
(contd.)

Each ship is being shadowed by one U.S. destroyer.
Estimate IDARWALD proposal to pass to Southward of Alacran Shoal.
Endeavour to intercept IDARWALD.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1922/2, to R.A. 3 B.S.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

OLTERRA.
LAVORO.

Governor Gibtraltar Tel. unnumbered to F.O. June 13 Spanish Government state OLTERRA and LAVORO nearly ready. Request assurance of non-interference on journey from Gibraltar to Cadiz.
(A.W.A. Madrid, 1132/2, to Admty.)

PIER LUIGI
TORCELLO

Correct my telegram 1130/30 (PIER LUIGI) is still in port Tanker TORCELLO left for Batoum 30/11.
(Varna, 1630/2).

AEQUITAS

AEQUITAS passed Pernambuco southbound morning 2/12. Brazilian minelayer CANANEA took over escort duty from Brazilian minelayer CARIOCA.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2007Z/2).

FRANCO MARTELLI

Has paid off the claim against her and has been released from embargo at Pernambuco (D.S. 454).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

FORFAR
A.M.C.

Have been struck by torpedo on starboard side, my position 040 QXNG 42. (FORFAR, 0250/2)

Engine Room and dynamo Room flooded, bulkheads holding at present. (FORFAR, 0439/2)

FORFAR torpedoed in position 054° 35 ' N., 018° 18' W., proceed to assistance forthwith. (C. in C., W.A., 0523/2 to ST. LAURENT)

Proceed forthwith to assistance of FORFAR reported in position 54° 42' N., 19° 00' W at 0250 today. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0558/2 to SEAMAN, THAMES)

My 0558, amend position to read 54° 35' N 18° 18' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0623/2)

Sailed tugs SEAMAN and THAMES from campbeltown to assistance of FORFAR in position 54° 35' N., 18° 18' W. Tug SEAMAN constant W/T watch on 500 KC/S. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0705/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

SALVONIA is to procedd forthwith to assistance of FORFAR in position 54° 35' N., 18° 18' W., at 0250 today. Tug SCHELDE has been sent from Campbeltown to assist ENGLISHMAN with SAGUENAY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0724/2)

Addressed GBXZ signal letters not known DUNSLEY have picked up crew of merchant cruiser assistance required master 0916/2 Position 54.40 N., 19.10 W., (Valencia Radio 0925/2)

Report if FORFAR still afloat and any information regarding other ships that have been attacked. (C. in C., W.A. 1548/2 to VISCOUNT)

?

Proceed to assistance of unknown ship reported torpedoed and sinking in position 054° 23' N., 020° 118 W., at 0017 (C. in C., W.A. 0040/2 to ST. LAURENT)

/LADY GLANELY.....

MOST SECRET

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

LADY GLANELY — British 5497 tons. Addressed following has been read:- Submarine Distress LADY GLANELY torpedoed 55.00 N., 20.00 W., at 0315/2. (Portishead, No. T.O.O./2 recd. 0430/2)

Steamship GLANELY torpedoed in position 055° 00' N., 020° 00' W., at 0415; investigate. (C. in C., S.A. 0442/2 to ST LAURENT)

?BOTAVON — DE GKIF (not known in War Registry) 55.03 N., 18.40 W., Am being attacked by submarine (Valentia Radio 0453/2)

Proceed to assistance ships torpedoed in position 055° N., 020° W., at 0415 and 054° 23' N., 020° 11' W at 2317. (C. in C., W.A. 0550/2 to VANQUISHER)

GOODLEIGH — British 5448 tons. S/M Distress, SSSS GOODLEIGH torpedoed in 55.02 N., 18.45 W (Valentia Radio, 0544/2)

S/M Distress. Torpedoed at 0537 (GOODLEIGH 0639/2)

TRADE — S/M Distress. Am being attacked (TRADE, T.O.R. 0554/2)

Ship being attacked in position 055° 03' N 018° 40' W., at 0553. (C. in C., W.A. 0610/2 to VISCOUNT)

Your 0610 am searching in the vicinity VANQUISHER complying with your 0550. GENTIAN ordered to rendezvous H.X. 90. (VISCOUNT 0830/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

SAGUENAY (torpedoed 1/12) — Proceed with all despatch to assistance of SAGUENAY in position 54° 20' N., 15° 22' W., at 2000/1. Course 070° speed 4 knots HIGHLANDER and A/S Trawler escort standing by. Tug ENGLISHMAN already despatched. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0712/2 to SCHELDE)

Sailed SCHELDE to assistance of SAGUENAY (F...I.C. Greenock, 1204/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

/CONCH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

CONCH

British, British tanker, 8376 tons. Picked up survivors from CONCH in position 055° 40' N., 019° W., ship still afloat, stationary, proceeding to FORFAR 0736. (ST. LAURENT 0645/2)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of Tanker CONCH torpedoed but reported floating in position 55° 40' N., 19° 00' W at 0645. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2304/2 to SUPERMAN)

VICTOR ROSS

British tanker, 12,247 tons. Following has been read. SSSS 56.04 N., 18.30 W., VICTOR ROSS torpedoed. (Plymouth W/T 0752/2)

After picking up survivors proceed to assistance of VICTOR ROSS torpedoed in 056° 04' N., 018° 30' W., at 0853/2 then rejoin convoy. Report situation. (C. in C., W.A. 1550/2 to VANQUISHER)

?

S/M Raider 54.35 N., 19.25 W., unknown ship torpedoed requires immediate assistance (Portishead Radio, 0830/2)

SEABANK SPRAY

My 0530/2 not to Admiralty and 936 A.Z. (a) Search by DEPTFORD failed to obtain contact (b) Not known, no signal made. (c) DEPTFORD starboard beam HAARLEM port beam GNMR (X) astern. (d) GDCH (X) Ship unidentifiable. Rear ship of number two column. Ship definitely sunk. (e) 0520/2 039°, 22' N., 014° 18' W., (f) 133° 28 hours proceeding zigzag. (g) B.C. sea 33 wind N.E. three fair dark night. (h) cause of explosion at present unknown. (DEPTFORD 0537/2 to Admty)

SEABANK SPRAY sunk probably torpedoed at 0530/2 in position 039° 22' N., 014° 18' W Survivors have been picked up. (F.O.C.N.A. 0943/2)

? JEANNE M

My 0931/2 (?0943 intended) Ship sunk was JEANNE M and not SEABANK SPRAY. Ship was in O.E. 46 and was torpedoed and sunk at 0545 B.S.T. 2/12 in position 39° 19' N., 13° 54' W., (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/5)

/TASSO.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

TASSO
MODAVIA
GOODLEIGH

Have survivors from TASSO, MODAVIA, GOODLEIGH latter afloat. My position 054° 56' N., 018° 26' W. Am joining ST LAURENT at rendezvous to hunt S/M sighted on surface. (VISCOUNT 1028/2 to C. in C., W.A)

LOCH RANZA

54° 37' N., 18° 54' W., torpedoed and sinking have shipwrecked crew of another vessel aboard. (LOCH RANZA, 1257/2)

54° 37' N., 18° 54' W., torpedoed and sinking have shipwrecked crew of another vessel on board LOCH RANZA (Valentia Radio 1300/2)

Your 0550 (Proceed to assistance ships torpedoed 055° N., 020° W., at 0415 054° 23' N., 020° 11' W., at 2317) Have found no trace of other ship. Am proceeding assistance LOCH RANZA. (VANQUISHER 1424/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

My position is 054° 36' N., 018° 30' W., Escorting LOCH RANZA course 083° LOCH RANZA can proceed as long as number one bulkhead holds (corrupt group) towage (corrupt group) (? ST LAURENT 1800/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

FORFAR has sunk. Proceed with all despatch to assistance LOCH RANZA in position 54° 36' N., 18° 30' W., at 1800 steering 083° escorted by ST LAURENT. Ship proceeding while No 1 bulkhead holds. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2129/2 to SALVONIA)

STIRLINGSHIRE

Torpedoed at 1632 G.M.T. 55° 42' 16° 13' (STIRLINGSHIRE 1738/2)

Torpedoed in position 055° 28' N., 016° 00' W., Am hunting. (FOLKESTONE, 1805/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

1725/2, 55° 28' N., 016° 00' W., course 351° after 2 emergency turns to port STIRLINGSHIRE afloat and abandoned, master considers salvage doubtful. All saved and in GRANGE PARK. Attack pressed home boldly, contact lost (FOLKESTONE, 1935/2 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

W.HENDRICK	Torpedoed 2027, 55° 00' N., 15° 40' W., Valencia W/T 2129/2)
WILHELMINA (H.X. 90)	2116/2, 055° 43' N., 015° 06' W., course 071° Believe W. HENDRICK attacked, and 1 Oiler sank. HILLCROFT picked up survivors of oiler. (FOLKESTONE, 2251/2 to Admty)
	Convoy attacked by one Wolff Condor. W. HENDRICK bombed and on fire. Can be salvaged. Request tug. Survivors on board GENTIAN. Correct my 2251/2. WILHELMINA only torpedoed and sunk, 56.32 N., 11.37 W (FOLKESTONE 1201/3)
VICTORIA CITY (H.X. 90)	British, 4739 tons, reported torpedoed (D.S. 455)
FORFAR TASSO KAVAK LOCH RANZA APPALACHEE CONCH RAJAHSTAN	FORFAR sunk. Survivors in VISCOUNT, ST. LAURENT, DUNSLEY. Have also survivors from TASSO, GOODLEIGH. My position at 1700/2 054° 36' N., 018° 10' W., course 093° escort LOCH RANZA with survivors of APPALACHEE on board. ST LAURENT in company with survivors of CONCH. RAJAHSTAN 10 miles to northward steering E. Intend rejoin convoy am short of fuel and both ships have sick men on board. (VISCOUNT, 1700/2 to C. in C., W.A.)
FORFAR RAJAHSTAN	FORFAR has sunk. Proceed with all despatch to assistance of RAJAHSTAN in position 54° 46' N., 18° 10' W., at 1700 steering E at 3 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2133/2 THAMES SEAMAN)
	If not in contact rejoin convoy forthwith (C. in C., W.A., 1800/2 to VISCOUNT, ST LAURENT)
	Position 055° 42' N., 015° 06' W., course 071° 9 knots. (FOLKESTONE 2100/2 to VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN)
H.X. 90	Convoy attacked again. (FOLKESTONE 2134/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

/OAKCREST.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

OAKCREST (Torpedoed 25/11) — Information received from Piermaster Castlebay that 6 British survivors and 8 bodies from SS OAKCREST were landed in lifeboat at Tangudae Isle of Barra at about 2200/1/12. Survivors now at Castlebay. Ship was in convoy O.B. 244 from Birkenhead to State of Virginia. Survivors state ship was torpedoed at 0600 25/11 in approximate position 53° N., 17°W. Of original 24 men in boat 10 were buried at sea. Another lifeboat said to have left ship with 3 men. No officer survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2107/2 to Admty.)

S.C. 11 — On time at R.V. Following ships torpedoed in N.W.Approaches: BRADFYNE, LEISE MAERSK, SALONICA, BUSSUM and JUSTICA sunk, BRUSE damaged. ALMA DAWSON mines and sunk. OOT MAR SUM not yet reported. (D.T.D. 1803/2 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

CHARLES F MEYER (Torpedoed 28/11) — Has arrived at Rothesay Bay (D.S. 455,456)

JEANNE M. — British, 2465 tons, in Convoy O.G. 46. Cardiff to Lisbon with coal, sunk by torpedo about 230 miles W. of Cape Roca, 39.22 N., 14.18 W., at 0520/2. Survivors have been picked up. (D.S. 455)

OAKCREST (Torpedoed 25/11) — British, 5407 tons, in convoy O.B. 244, torpedoed about 250 miles W. of Iceland on 25/11, is now presumed sunk. 18 of the crew were killed, 3 are missing, 6 have been landed on Barra Island. (D.S. 455)

Submarines Reported

0032 — S/M reported in 54.23 N., 20.11 W., Keep well clear to southward. (C. in C., W.A. 0032/2, to FORFAR)

0415 — A/F message 55.00 N., 20.00 W., at 0315/2 G.M.T. (N.I.D. 0505/2)

0150 — A/F message 54.36 N., 22° W., (D.D.I.C. 0647/2)

0553 — A/F message 55.03 N., 18.40 W., at 0453 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0647/2)

/0800.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

0800	One S/M bearing 340° distance 8 miles course 150° my position 108° D.S.C.N. 19 at 0800 (ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Gibraltar W/T 0830/2)
0852	A.F. message 56.04 N., 18.30 W., at 0752 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0938/2)
0950	Sighted S/M on surface, 54.35 N., 18.16 W., am hunting. (ST. LAURENT, 0950/2)
1023	U/Boat in approx. position 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1023 homeward bound. (V.A.S., to S/M's Area B 1051/2)
0830	Conflicting reports of S/M sighted 36.02 N., course 150°, northbound. (F.O.C.N.A., to DEPTFORD, JERSEY 1150/2)
1208 G.M.T.	S/M sighted 55° 29' N., 22° 00' W., (INDUNA 1410/2, Valencia Radio No T.O.O. Admty., 1500/2)
1610	D.F. probably U-Boat 56° N., 15° W. Unreliable fix. Probably reporting H.X. 90. (D.D.I.C. 1640/2)
1736	U-Boat reported in 055° 32' N., 007° 12' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1806/2)
	Indications at least 3 U-Boats working in 055° N., between 015 and 020° W., (C. in C., W.A. 2034/2 to VISCOUNT, ST LAURENT, VANQUISHER, WELLINGTON, SABRE)
1638	HAVELOCK, HARVESTER proceed to vicinity 054° 40' N., 018° 40' W., where several U-Boats are operating. HURRICANE HESPERUS follow when ready. (C. in C., W.A. 1638/2)
Estimated U-Boat Dispositions	Italian- 1 in vicinity of Rockall. 1 more in N.W. Approaches possibly N. of 55° N., and West of 20° W., 2 returning to Gironde, the foremost was about 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1023/2. German- 1 was about 550 miles S.W. of Cape Verde Islands on 30th. No recent news. 1 in 54° 35' N., 19° 25' W., at 0930/2. 1 about 55° N., 18° 45' W., at 0637/2. 1 about 56° N., 19° W., at 0852/2. 1 about 90 miles N.W. of Rockall at 2315/1. 1 near Rockall at 0209/2 probably moving South. Possibly 1 east of Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1221/2)

/Two Italian....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions-Contd.

Two Italian U-Boats returning to Gironde, the foremost was about 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1032. Possibly one German East of Shetlands homeward bound. (V.A.S. 1426/2)

Submarines Attacked

Attacking firm contact in position 054° 36' N., 018° 26' W., VISCOUNT in company. (ST. LAURENT 1132/2)

My 0830. Submarine dived and was attacked by KELVIN who reports 18 charges dropped air bubbles and oil seen consider U-Boat possibly sunk. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1203A/2 F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1800/2 and my 1700/2. Am endeavouring to find STIRLINGSHIRE en route to join convoy. ST LAURENT remaining with LOCH RANZA. Firm contact in vicinity of ST. LAURENT 1132/2 has been attacked with 80 depth charges. No visible result but contact fading. (VISCOUNT 1907/2 to C.in C., W.A.)

1620 FOLKESTONE (with convoy H.X. 90 see Ships Attacked) attacked contact and sighted periscope. At 1630/2 MODAVIA Captain sighted damaged U-Boat lying on its side which came awash 3 times and sank. This report being further investigated, but conclusion is that U-Boat fired torpedoes at STIRLINGSHIRE immediately before FOLKESTONE killed him. (Capt D. Liverpool to Admty., 1521/7)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep off Ostend

The M.T.B's returned to Harwich this morning. No incidents are reported.

Operation D.N.

C.S. 2. in ARETHUSA with AURORA and 4 Tribals left Scapa at 1114 today to carry out a sweep between Jaederens Point and Lister Light.

Convoy Protection

To meet the renewed U-Boat attacks on convoys west of the position where the usual local escort is in company it is intended as a temporary expedient to use the longer endurance destroyers with or near important convoys. Four destroyers of the Western Approaches Command have been mailed for this purpose. Sloops and Corvettes are not fast enough to catch U-Boats on the surface.

British Air Operations

Bomber Command

Adverse weather again caused a considerable curtailment of operations last night. A small force was however, despatched to attack the Naval Dockyard, submarines, and power stations at Lorient. Only part of this force was able to locate and attack the target.

Bad weather prevented any operations being carried out today.

Coastal Command

Bombs dropped yesterday on an Island off the Coast of Norway resulted in an explosion and fire and it is thought that an ammunition dump was hit.

Bad weather interfered with patrols today. All North Sea and Norwegian coast patrols were cancelled. A/S searches and convoy escorts were carried out in the N.W. Approaches only during the forenoon; and poor results were obtained from photographic sorties.

Fighter Command

Fighter patrols were maintained during today over the Heligoland Bight.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Rescue tug SALVONIA was attacked today in the N.W. Approaches. No damage is reported.

Convoy H.X. 90 was attacked this morning by a F.W.Condor about 140 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland. In spite of defence by an escorting aircraft SS W.HENDRICK was set on fire; a tug has been sent to her.

About 1700/3 an aircraft attacked C.H. Auxiliary patrol with machine guns and shot down two balloons off Spurn Point.

Enemy attacks last night were for the most part against Bristol.

Slight damage was done in an attack on Chatham Dockyard this evening.

Mining

Enemy Mining

Mine laying by enemy aircraft took place last night off the south and south west coast and off the east coast; it is estimated that 30 aircraft were employed.

ROBRIX Mined in Humber Area

M.V.ROBRIX (292 tons) was damaged by a mine off Spurn Point this morning and was towed to Grimsby. An aircraft dropped 3 mines in the searched channel 3 miles west of the Humber L.V. about 1700 today. The Humber was closed about an hour later.

Dover Area

Special Intelligence suggested that an enemy minelaying operation was carried out last night in the Dover area. Eight mines and 2 explosive cutters were found today.

Operation C.R.

ICARUS left Dartmouth at 1820 today to R.V. with KASHMIR, KIPLING and PUNJABI from Plymouth, to lay mines off the French Coast. The operation was abandoned on account of the failure of the taut-wire gear.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Azores Patrol

CACHALOT left the Clyde this afternoon to establish a patrol off the Azores.

South Atlantic

On account of the ITAPE incident (see 1/12) coming on top of two other as yet unsettled incidents, the visit of CARNARVON CASTLE to Rio de Janeiro has been cancelled and the ship will call at Montevideo to fuel.

Mediterranean

In pressing for a second fighter squadron at Malta, V.A.Malta says: "In view of intention to use Malta more fully for both Naval and Air Force an increase in fighter strength is an absolute necessity."

GLASGOW

GLASGOW (arrived Suda Bay 0700/2) was hit while at anchor at 1540 today by two aircraft torpedoes. The ship is in no danger of sinking and is capable of steaming, and she left Suda Bay for Alexandria at 2130 today with GLOUCESTER (C.S.3) HEREWARD, and HASTY.

Air Attack on Naples

Last night, Wellingtons from Malta attacked the railway station and oil refineries at Naples. Hits were obtained on the main line near the railway station and a large fire was started at the oil refineries.

Other Air Operations

One aircraft attacked the aerodrome at Catania successfully last night. An enemy supply ship was attacked in Sarande Bay today. Blenheims today maintained a fighter patrol over Athens. Sunderlands patrolled the eastern Ionian sea.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

China

A report has been received that German SS BERGENLAND at Yokohama is being fitted with torpedo tubes and is loading large quantities of provisions.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD and RHEIN are reported to be still in the Gulf of Campeche. In view of their slow advance CARADOC has been ordered to patrol Florida Straits and DIOMEDE Yucatan Channel. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN left Bermuda today for Florida Straits.

Australia

Since the mining of SS CAMBRIDGE off Melbourne on 7/11, 12 mines have been found in the area (D.S. 455)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H-Class Destroyers as Convoy Escorts.

To meet U/Boat attacks on Convoys West of position where usual Local Escort in company Intend as a temporary expedient to use longer-endurance Destroyers.
4 H.Class have been sailed for this purpose.
(C.in C. W.A. 1332/3 to Adty).

Faroes. Flag of the Day to Intercepted Ships.

Adty. 1152/23/10. Do not propose to give Flag of Day to Ships thus intercepted Reasons. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1846/3 to A.C.O.S.)

Defence of United Kingdon.

DELUGE.

At 1130/3. (D.C. 1134/3). At 2330/3. (D.C. 2332/3).

Plymouth. Air Decoy Proposal.

Your postagram 1123/1. Air Ministry representative cannot visit Plymouth. Adty. representative can be at your disposal a.m./5. Request your views. (D. of L.D. 1855/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Movements.

JUPITER. KIPLING. KASHMIR.

Arrived Plymouth. 1610/2. (C.in C. W.A. 0045/3).

HESPERUS. HURRICANE.

Expect arrive at daylight/4 in position given in C.in C. W.A. 1638/2. (HESPERUS 0057/3 to HAVELOCK).

EGLINTON. VANESSA.

Arrived Harwich 0936. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0941/3).

GERANIUM. JONQUIL.

Your 1320/2. Will be ready for sea a.m./9. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1020/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

VESPER VENOMOUS.

Cin C. W.A. 1706/2. (Ships to be retained by W.A. till after operation of 18/12. Concur. (C.in C. Nore 1040/3 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

NELSON. DOUGLAS. VIMY. KEPPEL.	Intend sail for Scapa passing Oxcars Gate 1530 today. E.T.A. 0545/4. (C.in C. H.F. to C.in C. Rosyth). Sailed 1530. (C.in C. Rosyth 1539/3).
Nore.	Movements to 1200/4. (C.in C. Nore 1200/3).
Portsmouth.	Intended sailings. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1207/3 to C.in C. W.A.)
BLYSKAWICA.	Repairs completed. Sailed for Greenock today. (F.O.I.C.Glasgow 1221/3)
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.	Intend sailing for Freetown a.m./7. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1232/3).
Dover.	Patrols for night 3/4. (V.A.Dover 1236/3)
CAMPBELL VANESSA.	Sailed from Harwich 1313/3. E.T.A. Sheerness 1600. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1317/3). Arrived Sheerness 1605. (C.in C. Nore 1806/3).
MORETON BAY.	C.in C. W.A. 1632/2. Leaves Clyde at 1200/5 unescorted for South Shields. Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1646/3).
WORCESTER QUORN.	Sailed from Harwich 1652/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1653/3).
SCOTT.	Arrived Port SA. 1645/3. (TRELAWNEY 1701/3).
ASPHODEL) CALENDULA.)	Intend sail for Freetown as by C.in C. W.A. 1649/26 and 1046/1 at 1700/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1731/3).
FORMIDABLE.	Your 1524/2. Expect sail 1800/7, anchoring Greenock before dark on 8th to embark stores and special Freight. (FORMIDABLE 1815/3 to Adty). Request Destroyer Escort from 1800/7. N.C.I.C. Belfast 1820/3 to C.in C. W.A.)
PEGASUS.) VOLUNTEER.)	My 1207/3. Sailed. BRANLEBAS delayed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2047/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

TARTAR. Request may be sailed for Scapa when ready. (R.A.D. 2245/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

BOUCLIER. Your 1511/3 and 1528/3. Sailed for R/V. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1959/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

OPERATIONS.

Ostend. M.T.B's, 14, 67 and 68 left Harwich at 0025. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0027/3). M.T.B.'s 14, 67, 68 arrived Harwich 0920. M.T.B. 22 arrived Harwich 0927 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0941/3).

Operation D.N. Carry out operation by ARETHUSA, AURORA, SOMALI, MASHONA, ESKIMO, BEDOUIN. (V.A.C. B,C.S. 0047/3 to C.S.2.) Ships sailed 114. (A.C.O.S. 1133/3 to Adty).

FERNIE) WITCH.) Patrol Westward tonight to cover passage of Floating Dock from Portland to Needles. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/3 to Adty).

KLAUS SCHOKE. Your 2328/2. Did ship use her Wireless before capture. (F.O.C.N.A. 1622/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Submarines.

SEALION. Leave patrol as by my 0955/1. (S.6.0933/3)

O.15. Request she be sailed independently for Reykjavik and thence to Rothesay. (V.A.S. 1136/3).

CACHALOT. Sailed as by V.A.S. 2124/1. (S.2. 1402/3).

TAKU. To leave patrol after dark 6th and meet CUTTY SARK in 270° Trevose Head 5 miles at 0845/9. Route. (S.2. 1549/3).

CACHALOT, THUNDERBOLT, TRIBUNE. Movements. (S.2. 1554/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/4. (V.A.S. 1731/3).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2244/30. Following patrols ordered to be flown p.m. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0340/3). Unlikely any of these Patrols will be flown today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0938/3 to Adty.) All Air Patrols and Air Escorts cancelled today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1246/3).

Milford Haven. Balloon Barrage. Your 1045/3. Limits of Convoy Anchorage and Approach Channel. (F.O. Milford Haven 1136/3 to Adty).

Enemy Air Activity.

SALVONIA. (Rescue Tug) Attacked by A/C in 54° 40'N., 16° 10'W. (Valentia Radio 1047/3).

Convoy HX.90. Being attacked in 56° 28'N., 10° 40'W. (HX. Convoy 1100/3) Position 56° 28'N., 11° 42'W. (HX.Convoy 1105/3). Attacked by one A/C. W. HENDRICK (British, 4360 tons) bombed and on fire. Can be salvaged. Request Tug. WILHELMINA only (British 7,135 tons) torpedoed and sunk. Position 56° 32'N., 11° 37'W. (FOLKSTONE 1201/3). (H.Q.15 Group 1930/3 to H.Q.15 Group 1930/2 to H.Q.C.C.)

Ford. Air Raid at 1200/3. Damage superficial. Estimate £20. (Supt: C.E.Portsmouth, 1745/3 to C.E. in C.)

North Sea. Indications of German Air R/C activity between Helder and Yorkshire coast between 1800 and 1900 today. (D.D.I.C. 1911/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Humber.

At about 1700/3 an A/C attacked G.H.A/P vessel with machine guns and shot down 2 balloons off Spurn Point.
(F.O. Humber, 2152/3 to Adty).

Mining.

Harwich.

Following from D.O. Walton. Coastguard Naze reports at 0117/3, 090° white flash followed by heavy explosion distant.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0120/3).

Dover Area.
See also enemy Intelligence.

No routine sweeping to 0800/3 in Q Z X 245 area swept extended to 7 cables E of line joining 1 and 4 buoys. 2 mines and 3 explosive cutters found. Q.Z.F. 26 search sweep 80% nothing found.
(V.A.Dover 1131/3).

In view of special intelligence suggesting that an enemy minelaying operation had been carried out last night a special sweep of channel past A No. 4 and Sandhead buoys was carried out near high water p.m. 3/12. Eight mines and two explosive cutters were cut between A and No.4 nuoys, thus confirming this supposition.

Operation O Y was in force last night between 2340 and 0440. Although warned that special intelligence indicated the presence of enemy vessels neither of the M.T.B's in the vicinity of number 4 and number 1 buoys saw or heard minelayers which must have passed within a few cables of them. Visibility was poor and at times not more than two cables. Dover R.D.F. was out of action.
(V.A.Dover, 1918/3 to Adty.

Operation S.N. 10.A.

1st M/L Squadron will carry out operation S.N.10.A. sailing from Port ZA at 1530/5. C.S.2 in ARETHUSA will provide ocean escort and R/V with R.A. M/L at 1730/5. REPULSE screened by 4 destroyers to cover operation. R.A.(D) H.F. is to sail 2 destroyers for Port ZA as additional screen in accordance with R.A. M/L 1635/2. (C.in C. H.F. 1226/3 to R.A.I.B.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Enemy Minelaying.

Good indications enemy minelaying took place between Folkstone Gate and S. Goodwin last night.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/3 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Operation S.H. (ICARUS).

My 1704/2 para.5 KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI to R/V with ICARUS in 102° Start Point 3 miles at 1900/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1324/3 to ICARUS). Your 1149/2. Repeat, Concur. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1431/3 to Adty).

Operation Z.M.E.4.

Initial position 51° 23½'N., 5° 05'W., direction 119 length 7 miles. Operation to be carried out as an alternative to second part of operation, G.Q., if C.in C W.A. considers conditions unsuitable for latter.
(D.O.D.(H) 1331/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations G.Q. Z.M.E.

ADVENTURE will be ready proceed for further operation G.Q. 6/12 or for a Z.M.E. p.m. 5/12.
(ADVENTURE, 1436/3 1113/4 to Adty).

A.A.Lights.

Adty. 1307/2. Consider dousing of A/A Lights will seriously hamper close range A/A fire against minelaying A/C and will greatly reduce chance of seeing where mines fall. Request consideration may be given to use of lights over the sea subject to angle of elevation being less than 15°. (C.in C. W.A. 1559/3 to Adty).

Humber.

Closed suspected A/C minelaying. (F.O. Humber 1809/3). About 1700/3 low flying A/C dropped 3 mines in swept channel 3 miles W. of Humber L.V. (F.O. Humber 2152/3).

Operation G.R.

Your 1704/2. Sailed ICARUS. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1820/3).
Taut wire failed. Am escorting ICARUS towards Tor Bay. Will then patrol to Lizard Head. (KASHMIR 2240/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

POBRIX.

Motor vessel 292 (tons). Damaged by underwater explosion in 110° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2-3 miles at 1043/3. No casualties. Towed in and now in Royal Dock, Grimsby. (F.O. Humber 1838/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Dangerous Area.

My 1818. Request area may be declared dangerous owing presence of enemy mines (positions). 105 and 190 Q.Z.3 and 26 Q.Z.F. closed within above area. 245 Q%X is superceded. (V.A.Dover 1920/3 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boat.

At 2130 machine guns posts at Shingle Street observed unidentified Motor Boat patrolling up and down 500 yards off shore until about 2200 then made off southwards.

At 2210 H.W. patrol reported suspicious motor boat to S.E. of him and Shingle Street Coastguard. One white rocket fired from surface 091° 4 miles. At 2217 H.R. reported unidentified surface craft north of him. At 2224 H.U. reported unidentified surface craft in vicinity of Aldeburgh. No flares or other pyrotechnics reported and no A/C plotted or reported.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0009/3 to C.in C.Nore).

At 0207 Infantry Observation Post nearby Bawdsey reported a Motor Boat heard at sea proceeding North to South. Showed a white light off Walton Point and disappeared to N.E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0255/3 and 0325/3).

At 0680 Shingle Street reports sounds of Motor-Boat heard South of Shingle Street Look-out. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0720/3).

My 0009/3. It cannot be established that any E/Boat was seen at time indicated, though indications exist of possibility of such operations. visibility was bad. (F.O.I.C. 1814/3 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Tanker.

It is believed that a German Tanker left St. Nazaire recently, and is probably proceeding to the Westward.
(D.D.I.C. 1010/3 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Scapa.
Possibility of attack from Air.

Information is reaching us from several quarters, but of course there may be nothing in it, that the Germans intend to make a concentrated air attack on the Fleet as they have recently done on towns.

Please see Adty. 2206/24, 1001/26, 1804/26, and 2323/29 to A.C.O.S. C.in C. H.F. 1517/25, 1927/27, 1107/30 and A.C.O.S's 1300/1 to Adty.
(1st S.L. 1746/3 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

BASSET. (A/S Trawler) Arrived Sheerness 1132 in tow. (C.in C. Nore 1241/3 to Adty).

CAMPBELTOWN. (In collision) Details of damage. 3½ weeks required in dock. No dock available at present. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1321/3 to Adty).

GULLFOSS. (Icelandic, 1414 tons). On North Goodwin. LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1141/3 to assist and returned at 1453. (V.A.Dover 1503/3 to Adty).

Rockets. Reported about 4 miles out to sea from Watergate Bay, Trevose Head at 2040. (C.in C. W.A. 2102/3 to BOUCLIER).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

E.N.36. Escort H.M.T's ELLESMERE, CAPE ARGONA, JASON. Code word Paddle, for ports Monitor Mixture. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1643/3)

F.S.51. F.N.49. F.S.52. F.S.51 and consequently F.N.53 postponed 24 hours-fog (C.in C. Rosyth 0717/3). F.S.51 is postponed 24 hours. GUILLEMOT. to escort F.N.49. and F.S.52 due Outer Dowsing 1800/4. WIDGEON to sail a.m. 5/12 to R/V before dark with F.S.51 due Sheringham Light 1630/5. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1047/3).

E.N.36. W.N.49. Sail 1500/4 and act as additional A/A escort to E.N.36 sailing at 2200/4. On meeting transfer to W.N.49 due Cape Wrath 0230/6 and Duncansby 1630/6. (C.in C. Rosyth 1115/3 to JASON).

HX.93. Ocean escort AURANIA subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A.3rd B.S. 1214/2) AURANIA left. (S.O.I. Halifax 1810/3).

W.N.47. Your 1013. Fast section with CURACOA have drawn clear ahead. Slow section somewhat drawn out 30 ships including 2 stragglers. Am in station on rear of slow section. (ALYNBANK, 1343/3 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

O.B.254. Sail VESPER to join O.B.254 in position 055° 41'N., 006° 53'W at 1100/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1440/3 to N.O.I.C.Belfast)

F.N.52. Propose sailing Group 31 with F.N.52 on 6/12 to Methil for onward routing Aberdeen. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1515/3).

HX.91. Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 1456/3).

4 M.F's. My 1207/3 sailed 4 M/V's escorted by ST. CATHAN and PEARL. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/5).

HX.92. Cancel route. New route. (D.T.D.1834/3 to MONTCLARE) 1836/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

HX.89. — Halifax arrival. 3/12. COMORIN from HX.89. (S.O.I. Halifax 1810/3).

S.C.13.) O.B.252.) — My 1252/2. Escort meet S.C.13 as arranged. Convoy O.B.252 is not to disperse intil further orders. HAVELOCK and HARVESTER will join convoy a.m./4. Route (C.in C. W.A. 1222/3, 1522/3).

S.C.14. — Route. (D.T.D. 1831/3).
O.B.256. — Route. (D.T.D. 1455/3).

B.X.H.94. — In view of C.O.A.C. Halifax 0950/3, B.H.X.94 will be sailed a.m./4. Ocean escort ASCANIA delayed by repairs will sail a few hours later to join convoy a.m./5.
(C.in C. A. & W.I. 1631/3 to Adty etc.)

Troop Convoys. W.S.5.A. — Your 1545/2. Anticipated maximum of 8 destroyers from this command will be available. Consider at least 12 required to give reasonable security.
(C.in C. W.A. 2002/5 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DE VERDUN. S.O.(I) Capetown 1023/26/11. Passed Gibraltar 29/11 westbound escorted. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1052/3).

PIERRE L.D., LA MARSA, GUYANE } French M.V's, passed Gibraltar eastbound 1740/3, escorted by armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN. (D.O.R. 4/12).

Intelligence. Following from secret source B.1. (1) Warships and Naval Units at Dakar from 17/11 to 26/11 included RICHELIEU, GEORGE LEYGUES, MONTCALM, FANTASQUE, MALIN, D'ENTRECASTEAUX, Calais five S/M's named VENGEUR, MONGE, ESPOIR, SYBILLE, PEGASE. Two Oilers GARONNE and LOT. (2) RICHELIEU under repair at her berth, two repair ships arrived recently one for submarines based on Dakar the other bringing materials and apparatus necessary for repair of RICHELIEU. According to the Chief Engineer in Charge of the work repairs to RICHELIEU will be completed by 15/12 when she can again be placed in service (3) One Submarine supposed German entered Dakar on 24/11 and sailed again same day. This Submarine was very small and of a type which made it impossible to be French. (4) Everyday one or two planes leave Kayes carrying one or two tons of gold to the North. (C.in C. S.A., 1617/3 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH. My 1836/2 and F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1. F.O.C. N.A. requested to divert EDINBURGH towards Gibraltar to R/V with and provide ocean escort for ARGUS, JAGUAR, KELVIN and FRANCONIA which ships are to be sailed for U.K. Orders. (D.O.D.(F), 2258/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SERPA PINTO. My 1800/2 SERPA PINTO not yet left Santos, expected to sail 4/12. Request if oil fuel available for her Freetown. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1109/3 to S.O.I. Freetown).

BERWICK. Your 2322/1. Repairs are in hand. Effect on dockyard. Anticipated that with certain exception all items affecting fighting efficiency will be completed by 16/12. He refers to his 1852/7/8. (A.S. Gibraltar, 1702/3 to Admty.)

CACHALOT, Patrol. CACHALOT leaves Clyde 3/12 to patrol off Ponta Delgada. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 2120/3).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FURIOUS.
DIDO,
FORTUNE,
FOXHOUND,
JAGUAR,
KELVIN

FURIOUS, DIDO escorted by FORTUNE, FOXHOUND are to leave Freetown at 1730/3 and proceed (route) to arrive position A at 0800/11/12 B.S.T. F.O.C.N.A. requested to sail JAGUAR and KELVIN to R/V in accordance with Admty. 0046/25/11. C.in C. W.A. requested to issue onward route from A for DIDO. FURIOUS to detach FORTUNE and FOXHOUND to return to Freetown to arrive 0630/5. (C.in C. S.A. 0959E/3 to FURIOUS)
Vessels left. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1825N/3).

Operations, and FURIOUS

Report whether you consider FURIOUS carried maximum number of A/C in operation Stripe and whether any suggestion for improving arrangements for a similar operation. (D.N.A.D. 1156/3 to FURIOUS).
Your 1156/3. Suggestions for similar operation in future. (FURIOUS, 1410/3 to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.4 A.

CORNWALL, PRETORIA CASTLE arrived escorting W.S.4 A. PRETORIA CASTLE sailed for Capetown e.t.a. 0700 Z/5. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1303Z/3 to Admty.)

Wreckage.

BOSWORTH reports sighting wreckage probably from a British ship at 0630/17/11 in 003° 40' N., 016° 07' W. Consisted of wood work, hatch covers, 3 life raft and several lockers. No boats were seen.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1507 B/3 to Admty.)

A/S Vessels for Mediterranean.

My 1705/2 para. 2. Secretary for Defence informs me guarantee suggested will not meet difficulty. If conditions acceptable request authority to settle details locally in order not to delay programme. Arrangements intended will be communicated as soon as possible. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1631B/3 to Admty.)

ITAPE, removal of Germans.

Your 0111Z/2/12 and CARNARVON CASTLE 1531Z/2/12 H.M. Ambassador considers that ITAPE incident though entirely supported by him coming on top of unsettled incidents of Brazilian ships SIQUEIRA CAMPOS and BUARQUE has created unfavourable atmosphere in which VISIT of CARNARVON CASTLE were better cancelled if o other fuelling arrangements can be made. (?Proposed) to conform with policy suggested by Admiral Harwood's 1940Z/14/12 para. 2A that no visit take place immediately before or after a capture near the same coast.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1325/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

/ Your 0111Z/2. .....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 0111Z/2 German Military Attache Rio de Janeiro today certainly conveyed impression to U.S. Military Attache that among Germans taken in ITAPE was a German General. Can this be verified? My records cover only 21 of men. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1655/3, to H.A.S.A.D.)

CRAGPOOL. My 1606/29 (Overdue shipping) CRAGPOOL arrived Buenos Aires 3/12. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1706/3).

CARNARVON CASTLE After transfer of prisoners QUEEN OF BERMUDA remain in K 33. CARNARVON CASTLE's visit to Rio de Janeiro cancelled. CARNARVON CASTLE is to proceed so as to enter Montevideo for 24 hours 0900 (zone plus three) 9/12. I will arrange visit. CARNARVON CASTLE is subsequently to return to K 33. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to leave K 33 so as to enter Montevideo 16/12 as arranged. Naval Attache Rio de Janeiro send CARNAHVON CASTLE's mails to Montevideo to arrive 9/12. 2330Z/3.

HERMES, DRAGON Departure 1700/3 HERMES and DRAGON on Patrol. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1823H/3).

Mediterranean.

Submarine Raids. Suggestions for. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1242/3 - docket No. F.D. 09304/40). See Med. Vol.

Greece. Operational Summary No. 21. (B.A.F.O., 1845/3 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Italy. Policy and morale. (N.A. Madrid, 1850/3, 1925/3). See Med. Vol.

MANCHESTER UTMOST. MANCHESTER is expected to leave Malta p.m./4 South of Skerki Bank and be near position 037° 40' N. 006° 30' E. at 0700 - 1 on 5/12. She has been informed that your anticipated position at that time will be 037° 45' N. 006° 15' E. on course 081 degrees. (V.A. Malta 0921/3 to UTMOST).

Submarines. Admty. 1229/29. Is it intended that the three submarines of First Flotilla are to be relieved by a further three "U" class from Fifth Flotilla or that they should be sent when URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST are ready for service at Malta. (C.in C. Med., 1111/3 to Admty.)

/ Valona bombed. ...

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Valona bombed. 1. GREECE. Day 2/12. (as H.Q. B.A.F. Greece 1751/2). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/3).

Enemy Intelligence. Preliminary report air reconnaissance a.m./3. (V.A. Malta, 1401/3 to Med. Fleet).

My 1401/3. Photographs show following.
West Outer Harbour one CAVOUR Battleship one large merchant vessel.
East Outer Harbour two medium merchant vessels. Three medium merchant vessels outside.
Inner Harbour, one eight inch and one 6 inch cruiser both in dock one 6 inch cruiser alongside. 5 destroyers one medium merchant vessel.
(V.A. Malta, 1835/3).

Malta Raid. Air raid alarm 1255 to 1302 on approach of enemy aircraft to 15 miles north east of Malta. 4 Hurricanes up but enemy did not cross coast. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1710/3).

Oil Fire Defence. Your 1805/28. The term Oil Fire Defence refers to the use of burning oil against landing craft. Details have been sent to you in M/L.D.01407/40.
(D. of L.D. 1816/3 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

Taranto Attack. Italian A.N.A. informed American N.A. following result of attack on Taranto.
CAVOUR hit two torpedoes, very seriously damaged, repairs several months.
LITTORIO hit three torpedoes, not so seriously damaged. ANDREA DORIA hit one torpedo. Both ready few weeks provided nothing interferes with repairs.
Other battleships moved Port Adriatic.
Straits of Otranto heavily mined.
Attack brilliantly planned and executed but would not have been so successful if Italian force had been alert.
Italian A.N.A. was rather drunk.
Consider can accept this as fairly reliable. (N.A., Madrid, 1850/3 to D.N.I.)

370. A.O.C. Mediterranean urging Air Ministry (a) that Wellingtons if they are to continue to operate from Malta should be formed into a properly constituted unit permanently based here.
(b) that fighter force should be increased by a second squadron as soon as possible.
I most strongly support these proposals especially the latter. (Reasons).
(V.A. Malta, 1913/3 to C.in C. Med.).

/ GLASGOW ....

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

GLASGOW, torpedo air attack.

GLASGOW was hit at anchor in Suda Bay at 1540 today 3/12 by two aircraft torpedoes. Full details not yet known but ship in no danger of sinking and capable of steaming. She has been ordered to remain at Suda Bay due to bad weather forecast. (C.in C. Med., 2206/3, to Admty.)

East Indies.

Suspicious Vessel.

Following received. QQQQ CITY OF EDINBURGH 15° 20' N., 92' 01° E. being followed by suspicious vessel possibly raider now steering N. 0310 G.M.T. T.O.R. 0353. (Admiral Colombo, 0415Z/3 to Admty.)
My 0415/3. Message has been cancelled. (Admiral Colombo, 0459Z/3).
CITY OF EDINBURGH in 015° 29' N., 092° 01' E. at 0310 G.M.T. 3/12 made QQQQ message. Subsequent signal show this a false report. (C.in C. E.I. 0534/3 to E.I. Squadron).

B.M.10.

Departures 2330Z/2. CARLISLE, AUCKLAND, KIMBERLEY, INDUS, CHANTALA, S/M X 2 with B.M.10. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0424Z/3).
Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Aden 0820/3)

Whalers.

Admty. 1718/20/10. Request arrangements be made for LL Whalers to fuel at Beira on passage from Durban to Mombasa. Had intended Oiler OLCADES to accompany them but anxious to get her to Mauritius as soon as possible. (C.in C. E.I. 1126Z/3 to Admty.)

DUNERA
BIEUW HOLLAND.

Your 1724/1, DUNERA, 1400 tons capacity should give 20 days endurance at average daily consumption of 70 (? tons)
BIEUW HOLLAND, 1350 tons capacity 22 days at 60 tons per day. (S.S.T.O. India, Bombay 1240Z/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

Mines.

Your 0301/24/8. Shipment of mines, including some to Singapore for Dutch authorities. (D.D.O.D.(M) to C.in C. China, 1214/3).

Shipping, Japan.

Request decision on my 0223/17/10, re withdrawal of shipping from Japanese waters. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 0257Z/3, to Admty.)

LAMOTTE PICQUET
DUMONT D'URVILLE

Saigon reports departure 3/12 Cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET, understood to be joining Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE in Gulf of Siam near Thai frontier. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 2303Z/3, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

"Town" Class Destroyers. — St. Johns N.F. arrival 2/12 SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR. (S.O.I., Halifax 0001/3 to Admty.)

CARADOC DIOMEDE — In view of slow advance of German ships, CARADOC proceed 15 knots to patrol Florida Strait about longitude of Havana. After fuelling Jamaica, DIOMEDE leave daylight 4/12 and proceed 15 knots to patrol Yucatan Channel. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1208/3, to CARADOC, DIOMEDE).

Florida Straits Patrol. — Bermuda departure. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN for Florida Straits speed 10 knots. Ordered to patrol between 8 and 20 miles 270° from north Bimini light ready to fuel Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship VAN KINSBERGEN or CARADOC when required. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1503/3).

Swedish Ship. — Intercepted Air letter G Biorklund Buenos Aires to Stockholm Office states Swedish ship ANNIE JOHNSON scheduled to leave Buenos Aires 6/12 or 7/12 for Vladivostock. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1603/3).

PENNLAND, T.C.8. — Request you will sail PENNLAND due Kingston, Jamaica 2/12 so as to arrive Halifax not later than 12/12.
Following vessels total capacity 7,200 available for T.C.8.
PASTEUR (3,100), CAPETOWN CASTLE (1,500), PENNLAND (2,593).
In addition to BERGENSFJORD anticipate further opportunities for embarking drafts in independent sailings will occur late December. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. A.W.I., 1853/3).

In order to arrange ocean escort for next S.C. Convoy propose to cancel S.C.15 and sail these ships with S.C.16 from Halifax. Report if this will entail an undue number of ships sailing in S.C.16. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2116/3 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

New Zealand.

HOLMWOOD. — (No trace in Lloyd's). Due at Lyttelton N.Z., from the Chatham Islands on 25/11, has not arrived and must be presumed lost or captured by an enemy raider. (D.O.R. 4/12).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HANS BORNHOFEN — Required assistance at 1520 G.M.T./3, stated she was making for calm water in Kalmarsund, Sweden. (D.S. 456.)

ORINOCO. — New York Press states taking in supplies at Tampico and Captain awaiting arrival of clearance papers on 3/12. (D.S.456).

KLAUS SCHOKE (captured 2/12) — Your 2328/2 passed to F.O.C.N.A. Put armed guard on board. Do not tow ship owing to danger from submarines, but visit ship occasionally. Do you consider boiler room and engine room could be pumped out if diver and tug were sent? (D.D.O.D.(F) 0451/3 to CALIFORNIA).

CALIFORNIA's 2328/2. Can you get CALIFORNIA's prize to Gibraltar? (D.D.O.D. (F) 0455/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0451/3. Have taken off own party when they could do no more as ship entirely abandoned by Germans whom I rescued. (c) Yes provided calm enough to apply pump power externally. Main inlet cover is off and ship has no auxiliary power or pump appliances left available. Ship still floating naturally at light draught.
(CALIFORNIA, 0648/3 to Admty.)

316. Your 0455/3. CALIFORNIA's reply to your 0451/3 has not been received. Please pass this. (F.O.C.N.A. 0828/3 to Admty.)

Admiralty's 0455/3. Am sailing ENCOUNTER forthwith to stand by prize. Fleet Tug ST. DAY with naval crew will be sailed p.m. today Tuesday.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1040/3, to Admty. and CALIFORNIA).

My 1040/3 ENCOUNTER expected time of arrival at position 38° 28' N. 22° 15' W. 1900 zone minus one 5/12. Amend position to ENCOUNTER as necessary.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1540/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Your 2328/2. Did German ship KLAUS SCHOKE use her wireless before capture?
(F.O.C.N.A. 1622/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Your 1622/3 No. (CALIFORNIA, 2044/3).

My 1040/3. Fleet Tug ST. DAY sailed 1900/3 speed of advance 9 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1902/3 to CALIFORNIA, ENCOUNTER).

/ ENCOUNTER .....

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

ENCOUNTER speed 16 knots sailed 1400/3 Fleet Tug ST. DAY speed 9 knots sailed 1900/3 both for position 038° 28' N. 022° 15' W. (F.O.C. N.A. 1951/3).

REGENSBURG
BURGENLAND

Yokohama 2/12 REGENSBURG anchored outside the harbour.
Master Greek ship reports 27/10 German ship apparently BURGENLAND being fitted with Torpedo tubes and loading large quantities of provisions.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore 0822Z/3, to Admty. etc.)

Tanker.

German Tanker may have left Saint Nazaire recently probably westbound.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1631/3, to S. and A. N. Atlantic).

PORTLAND.

Following from Navy Dept. From Santiago de Chile. German ship PORTLAND sailed from Coquimbo 2200/30. Destination unknown. (N.A. Washington, 1934/3, to Admty. etc.)

Your 1636Z/30. (No news of German ships for some time). Little activity since my 1715/20/9 other than reported in my 1735/13/11, 1301/26, 1732/26, and 1700/26.

MONTEVIDEO.

Present position as follows: at Rio Grande De Sul MONTEVIDEO under embargo in ballast fuel for auxiliary purposes only crew being distributed.

WINDHUK
DRESDEN
BABBITONGA

At Santos WINDHUK under embargo crew being distributed no cargo probably half fuel. DRESDEN cargo not ascertained but light, ample fuel. BABBITONGA, 4600 bales of cotton seed 400 sacks Zirconium, ample fuel.

MACEIO
BOLLWERK

At Bahia MACEIO reported expected to sail for Rio De Janeiro 168 tons tobacco 220 tons Castor seed recently received 150 tons coal from BOLLWERK but may be still short. BOLLWERK in ballast short of coal.
At Para, NORDERNEY has 250 tons coal on board 750 tons coal on deposit. No cargo awaiting 1000 tons cotton seed.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro to Cdre. S.A.D., 1605/3).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Clyde arrivals LADY MADELINE, ACTIVE with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0821/3)

SAGUENAY
(Torpedoed 1/12)

Following damage to SAGUENAY. Description Casualties. No Officers, 21 ratings missing Five Officers and 85 ratings on board HIGHLANDER. Must part company down to-morrow Wednesday for fuel. (HIGHLANDER, 1100/3 to Admty., etc., amended 2035/3)

Your 1030/3 (No trace Admiralty) Tug ENGLISHMAN is to be detached and instructed proceed Ardrossan, to Coal. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1223/3 to HIGHLANDER)

LOCH RANZA
CONCH
FORFAR
(Torpedoed 2/12)

My 1800/2. My position course and speed 054° 47' N., 014° 46' W., 080° 5 knots. Trying to make Lough Swilly LOCH RANZA making water in No two hold and listing to starboard. Request rescue tugs. Have following survivors on board- complete crew 53 from steamship CONCH. Three officers and 18 ratings from FORFAR. Only two patterns depth charges remaining. Request instructions for LOCH RANZA and relief. Weather. (ST LAURENT 1400/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

LOCH RANZA in position 54° 57' N., 14° 46' W., at 1400 today. Course 080° speed 5 knots. ST LAURENT standing by. SALVONIA keeps constant W/T watch on 500 Kc/s. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1823/3)

Your 1400/3 Tug SALVONIA is trying to find you. Remain with LOCH RANZA who is to proceed to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 1956/3 to ST. LAURENT)

Your 1956/3. Tug THAMES assisting LOCH RANZA. Tug SEAMAN proceeding RAJAHSTAN (ST. LAURENT 2102/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

W. HENDRICK
WILHELMINA

Convoy (H.X. 90) Attacked by 1 Wolff Condor W. HENDRICK bombed and on fire. Can be salved. Request tug. Survivors on board GENTIAN. Correct 2251/2. WILHELMINA (British, 6725 tons) only torpedoed and sunk, 56.32 N., 11.37 W., (FOLKESTONE, 1201/3

/Proceed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

W. HENDRICK — Proceed with all despatch to assistance of SS W HENDRICK in position 56° 52' N., 11° 37' W., at 1201/ today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1740/3 to ASSURANCE)

Sailed tug ASSURANCE from Campeltown at 1840 in accordance with my 1740 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1933/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

Submarines Reported

2334/2 — D.F. probable U-Boat 61 to 62.30 N., 17° to 19° W., (D.D.I.C. 0033/3)

1500 — A.F. message 57° N., 17.11 W., at 1400 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1815/3)

1150 — 39.10 N., 14.10 W., at 1050 G.M.T./3 (F.O.C.N.A. 2159/3)

1459 — 54.50 N., 16.40 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 456)

2225 — N.W. of Hebrides, indefinite position of Italian U-Boat. (D.S. 456)

2046 — Between Brest and W of Ireland, indefinite position. (D.S. 456)

2145 — Abeam Cape Spartel. Reported by Officer of armed guard from French SS MES GENEAUX which arrived Gibraltar 1245/4 (S.O.(I) Gib. 2118/4)

1638/2 — HESPERUS, CROOME, HURRICANE expect to arrive in a position mentioned in C. in C., W.A.'s 1638/2 (position where several U-Boats operating) at daylight 4/12. (HESPERUS, 0057/3 to HAVELOCK)

1400 G.M.T. — Enemy submarine 57° 1, 17° (?11) (WAIRANGI, 1400/3 to Ships, Orkneys and Shetlands, etc.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 was 70 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent at 1200/2.
1 probably Italian was 240 miles west of Lisbon at 0530/2.
2 in Bay of Biscay nearing Gironde.
1 about 56° N., 21° W. at 0205/3.
1 near Rockall.
Probably another north of 55° N.E. of 20°W.

/German.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions-Contd.

German- 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 was about 52° N., 17° W., at 0623/3, possibly bound for Lorient.
1 South of 55° N., and West of 20° W.,
1 between 54° 30' N., and 55° N., 15° W., and 17° W.
1 was in 55° 43' N., 15° 06' W., at 2126/2 probably following H.X. 90.
1 off North Coast of Ireland.
1 in area 58° N., to 59° N., 16° W., to 19° W.,
1 North of 61° N., East of 20° W.,
(D.D.I.C. 1351/3, V.A.S., 1539/3)

Submarines Attacked

KELVIN

317. My 1150/2. Report of submarine. U-Boat dived and was attacked by KELVIN who reports 18 charges dropped, air bubbles and oil seen and considers vessel was possibly sunk. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/3 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.N. — ARETHUSA, AURORA and destroyers returned to Scapa this afternoon. The sweep between Jaederens Point and Lister Light was without result.

SAGUENAY — (Torpedoed 1/12) arrived in tow in Rothesay Bay today.

Submarine Hunt — KASHMIR, KIPLING, JUPITER, PUNJABI left Plymouth at 1619 today to hunt for a small U-Boat believed to have been in about 49°N 11° W., at 1200 today proceeding to Lorient.

Warning to Merchant Shipping — Masters of merchant ships are to be warned that warships and disguised raiders are adopting a policy of attacking without warning and defensive armament must be brought to a state of instant readiness whenever a strange vessel is sighted.

Submarines may now be encountered not only in Home Waters, but in the Atlantic east of 45° W., in the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Indian Ocean, including the Persian Gulf.

Outside these areas all possible care should be taken before opening fire on a submarine to make sure that it is an enemy submarine.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command — Bad weather curtailed operations last night and the only Naval objective attacked was the dock area at Dunkirk. Weather conditions were again unsatisfactory today

Coastal Command — R.C aircraft operated over the North Sea to the Faroes, from Trondheim towards Iceland, over coastal districts from the Humber to Western Approaches, and over Eire.

Blenheims today carried out several attacks on shipping off the Coast of Norway and off the Channel Ports. Results in most cases were not observed owing to bad weather.

Patrols in the central North Sea were not flown today. R.C's of the coast of Norway were flown from Stadlandet to Lister and from Lister to Horn's Reef.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Dover was attacked today. Rescue tug LADY BRASSEY was slightly damaged by a near miss. No other naval damage is reported.

A number of aircraft from Squadrons previously associated with minelaying and attacks on shipping have arrived at Sylt. This may indicate increased activity on the North East Coast.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place between 1800-2100 today in Falmouth Bay and Bristol Channel. Minelaying was carried out in the Thames Estuary last night.

Plymouth was opened at 1632 subject to local restrictions. One mine detonated spontaneously.

Tyne was opened this morning.

8 mines and 1 explosive cutter were found in the Dover area.

Milford Haven was closed this evening.

A mine, apparently moored, was sunk 2 miles off Ardnamurchan Point this morning.

HELENE
Mined

Belgian trawler HELENE was mined today off Milford Haven.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Convoy Delays

C. in C., S.A. reports that the discrepancies between signalled and actual requirements of fuel and water are causing delays in convoys' programmes. The signalled requirements of Convoy W.S. 4 B were fuel oil 6,000 tons, water nil. The Amounts actually supplied to enable ship to reach Durban were fuel oil 9,200 tons, water 4,690 tons. He asks that water expenditure in transports be limited to 6 gallons per man per day; it has varied between 5 and 14 gallons per man. Rationing of water has already begun on shore at Freetown, and a 14,000 ton tanker is to be included in Convoy W.S. 5 A.

Mediterranean

B.A.F. Greece report that a destroyer reported to be shelling Greek forces from Sarande was put to flight at the sight of 2 Blenheims which secured a hit on the bow and one on the stern.

East Indies

The Indian Government have approved for 3 A/S vessels RATNAGIRI, PARVATI and NETRAVATI, to operate under the S.N.O. Red Sea.

America & West Indies

CARADOC is ordered to proceed into the Gulf of Mexico to search for IDARWALD and RHEIN. VAN KINSBERGEN is to assist CARADOC.

DESPATCH left Gibraltar this evening for A & W.I. Station.

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Possible Enemy Air Attacks on Fleet.

Information. Berthing of Ships and general arrangements should be such as to preclude as far as possible a successful attack. (1st S.L. 1539/4 to C.in C. W.A., Portsmouth, Nore, Rosyth).

Faroes. Examination of Ships.

N.O.I/C. Faeroes 1846/3. The issue of merchant ship identification signal from S.P. 02296 is considered most desirable to avoid possibility of merchant ships already examined in Faeroes being taken to Kirkwall by trawlers when boarding is impossible. The only alternative is for N.O.I/C. Faeroes to signal direct to Northern Patrol trawlers the names of ships examined in the Faeroes but as reception by trawlers of Thorshaven W/T Station is unreliable this is not recommended. Propose that examination officers should hold a copy of S.P. 02296 on board his vessel or in his office and should extract the identification signal before boarding the merchant ship. (F.O.C.N.P. 1554/4 to F.O.C.O.S.)

N.O.i/c Faroe's 1846/3. Request your remarks observing that it can be arranged for N.O.I.C. Faroes to inform you of particulars of vessels that have been examined and passed.
(F.O.C.O.S. 2006/4 to F.O.C.N.P.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/4. (D.C. 1155/4) At 2030/4 (D.C. 2044/4) At 2330/4 (D.C. 2345/4)

Shetlands. A/A Defences.

Your 1107/30. Request you send Representative to examine with Air Ministry Works Dept. your proposals for new Runways at Scatsta and Aerodrome in Unst. (5th S.L. 2030/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Movements.

KIPLING, KASHMIR, PUNJABI.

Left Plymouth 1715/3. (C.in C. W.A. 0034/4). Return to Plymouth. (C.in C. W.A. 1034/4 to KASHMIR).

NELSON, DOUGLAS, VIMY, KEPPEL.

Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0610/4 to Adty.)

Nore Command. Ships out of Action.

My 0940/2. Delete WINDSOR, HOLDERNESS, PELICAN. (C.in C. Nore 0731/4).

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Nore 0800/4).

// LA PERNELLE)
JOUBERG) .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LA PERNELLE) JOUBERG)
Your 1629/3 and my 1526/25/11. LA PERNELLE sailed 16/11. JOUBERG expected to sail about 8/12. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1004/4 to Adty.)

PEGASUS) VOLUNTEER)
Your 1207/3. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1030/4 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

C.S.2.
You were reported by Enemy A/C at 1030. (D.D.I.C. 1126/4 to C.S.2).

PEGASUS
VOLUNTEER
WOLVERINE
1. PEGASUS escorted by VOLUNTEER is to sail from Dartmouth for Belfast at 1600 today proceeding by route as in my 2314/2.
2. WOLVERINE is to pass Gate at 1630 and join in position 170°. Start Point 4 miles at 1800/4 and is to be detached to arrive Londonderry by 1600/6.
3. VOLUNTEER is to be detached so as to arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 1730/5. (C.in C. W.A. 1222/4).

Your 1222. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1615/4 to C.in C. W.A.).
WOLVERINE sailed 1630 as by my 1222/4. (C.in C. W.A. 1911/4 to Adty.)

FORMIDABLE.
Your 1815/3 approved. (A.C.N.S.H. 1225/4 to FORMIDABLE).
Detail 2 Destroyers to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 1800/7 to carry out exercises A.M./8 and thence to Greenock P.M./8. (C.in C. W.A. 1638/4 to D.12). Adty. 1524/2. (Escort to Scapa to work up.) R.A.D. H.F. is to sail 3 destroyers for this duty, to arrive Greenock A.M./10. (C.in C. H.F. 1914/4).

ARETHUSA)
AURORA)
SOMALI, MASHONA)
BEDOUIN, ESKIMO)
Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1312/4).

Portsmouth.
Movements for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/4).

Dover.
Dispositions for Night 4/5. (V.A. Dover 1358/4 and 2024/4).

Rosyth.
Movements for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Rosyth 1536/4, 2332/4, and 1538/4).
Arrivals and Departures 4/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 2324/4).

SWONA)
SKUDD 3, 4, 5.)
Sailed as by Adty. 1134/22/11. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1637/10).

SKUDD 6.)
POLAR V.)
Now arrived Ardrossan. Expected ready to proceed 8/12. Request confirm destination Freetown. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1736/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

DOUGLAS)
KEPPEL) ....

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

DOUGLAS)
KEPPEL)

Sailed 1805 from Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1811/4).

ASPHODEL)
CALENDULA)

Sailed as by my 1731/3. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2143/4).

Operations.

Unidentified Surface Vessel.

Plot placed this vessel in 54° 13' N. 00° 10' E. at 2359/3 steering 324° at 12 14 knots. One ship of escort should proceed to investigate but must rejoin convoy before daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 0146/4 to VANITY).

Am proceeding to comply. (WESTMINSTER 0245/4 to VANITY) Nothing sighted. Visibility one mile. Am rejoining. My position 54° 47' N. 1° 6' W. (WESTMINSTER 0540/4 to VANITY).

Flash off Cadgewith

Coastguard Cadgewith reports flash as of Gunfire 110° Cadgewith very distant at 0637. (C.in C. W.A. 0714/4 to KASHMIR) At 0830 my position 49° 53' N. 4° 13' W. and at 0630 was 110° Lizard Head 30 miles. Nothing seen. (KASHMIR 0902/14)

Troop embarkation in GLENCOYLE, GLENROY

Your 1855/2. Request that 2 Battalions which were to be embarked at Largs be now embarked at Gourock on 6/12. (A.D.O.D. C.O. 0933/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operation D.N.

Nothing to report. (C.in C. H.F. 1707/4 to Adty.)

Iceland.

As 'LL' Sweepers are urgently required at home, it is proposed that EBOR WYKE and VARANGA be sailed without relief to Liverpool. LACKENNIA and NAB WYKE will operate from Granton but will be held in readiness to proceed to Iceland if Magnetic mines are laid there. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.H. 1718/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Submarines.

Area A.

Cancel my 1259/2. After dark 4/12 resume patrol in areas previously ordered. (F.O.C. S/M's. 1139/4 to S/M's Area A).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/5. (V.A.S. 1721/4).

URGE.

Request Escort Barrow to Clyde 10/12. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2102/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Hatston. 816 and 825 cannot yet be considered as sufficiently trained for re-embarkation in a carrier and are at present carrying out intensive training in night flying and torpedo work. 3 aircraft are proceeding to Arbroath at a time for A.S.V. fitting. Request you will report what training these squadrons could carry out from Hatston if sent later. (D.N.A.D. 0012/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Patrols. My 2240/30. Following ordered to be flown A.M. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0300/4).
St. Kilda Patrol and Rona Patrol are being flown daily A.M. weather permitting. Particulars. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/4).
Routine A/S Patrols flown 4/12.
(200 Group 1800/4 to Air Ministry).
St. Kilda and Rona Patrols will be flown throughout daylight tomorrow.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2250/4).

Operation. Repeat tonight operations ordered for 53, 59, and 812 Squadrons for Night 3/4.
(H.Q.C.C. 1440/4 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Liverpool. Admiralty 1307/2. F.O. i/c Liverpool, suggests that complete dousing of all A.A. lights will hamper close range A.A. fire against minelaying aircraft and reduce chances of seeing where mines fall.
2. Request consideration may be given to use of A.A. lights over sea in patrol areas during patrol subject to angle of elevation being less than 15°.
(D. of L.D. 1748/4 to Air Ministry).

M/V attacked. At 1455 in 51°3' N. 2°22'E. A/C attacked one M/V. 6000 to 7000 tons moored between Moles. 4 Bombs. All missed.
(Chatham 1900/4).

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft. At 1507 A/C dropped 4 Bombs in water of Herring Basin and one on North Pier extension. No damage. On civilian casualty. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1543/4).

Chatham. Air Attack at 2000/3. Details of damage to Dockyard. 8 killed, 11 dangerously injured and 42 slightly. (C.in C. Nore 1816/4).

Dover. One A/C dropped 14 Bombs at 1340/4. 3 fell in Granville Dock area, 3 in harbour, and rest in town. One Naval Officer injured. (V.A. Dover 1826/4).

/ LADY BRASSEY ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LADY BRASSEY. Will be out of action for about 3 days as result of Near Miss from Bomb while in harbour (V.A. Dover 1558/4 to Adty.)

Humber. Your 2152/3. (Attack on G.H. Auxiliary Patrol by A/C. Matter has been referred to Home Forces and Air Ministry with request that instructions be issued for guns that will bear to engage in future. (D. of L.D. 1926/4 to F.O.I.C. Humber) (D. of L.D. 1927/4 to Home Forces, Air Ministry).

Sylt. A number of A/C from Squadrons previously associated with Minelaying and attacks on shipping have arrived at Sylt. This may indicate increased activity on N.E. Coasts. (D.D.I.C. 1626/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Portsmouth. Details of damage done approx 2000/3 (Supt. C.E. 1650/4).

Mining.

Operation G.R. Your 2240 approved. Lights will be arranged. (C.in C. W.A. 0002/4 to KASHMIR).
Your 1704/2 (Op. G.R. carried out by ICARUS) returned to Dartmouth. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1000/4).
My 1704/2. Op. G.R. to be carried out night 4/5/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1050/4 to ICARUS).
Cancel my 1050/4 (C.in C. W.A. 1250/4 to ICARUS).

Oban. My 2020/3 SOUTHERN SPRAY reports mine sunk 230° Ardmamuchan Point 2 miles about 1550/3. Mine appeared to be moored. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1030/4).

JOLLY GIRLS. Mined N. of channel into Tyne at 1756/2. Consider enquiry should be held on conduct of Master, re loss of ship. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1047/4 to Admty.)
My 2311/2. Wreck in 55° 00' N., 1° 23'00"W. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1502/4).

Tyne Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1141/4).

Plymouth. Cancel my 1632/30. Port open subject to local restrictions. (C.in C. W.A. 1246/4)
Since my 1817/2 1 mine detonated spontaneously 202° Breakwater Fort 1600 yards. No vessels near. (C.in C. W.A. 1823/4).

/ Operation G.Q.2. ....

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.9.2. — ADVENTURE to lay mines 46° 10 miles from 48° 35' N., 09° 44' W., night 6/7/12. Destroyers of 5th D.F. to be detailed later as escort. Orders re route etc. (C.in C. W.A. 1348/4 to ADVENTURE).

HELENE. — (Belgian Trawler) Mined in 51° 41' 3"W. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1624/4).

Operation J.H. — Destroyer escort will not now be available until night 7/8/12 at earliest. (C.in C. W.A. 1404/4 to Admty.)
C.in C. W.A. 1404/4. ICARUS to be sailed for Portsmouth if possible night 4/12. Will be available at discretion of C.in C. Portsmouth for repetition of operation J.H. D.D.O.D.(M), 1614/4 to C.in C. W.A.) Your 1614/4 ICARUS will sail 1800/5 e.t.a. Nab 0800/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1752/4 to Admty.)

Dover. — Routine sweeps to 0800/4. QZX 247 search sweep by 4 Oropesa Trawlers Southwest Gate to Sandhead Buoy 8 mines and 1 explosive cutter found between No. 4 and A. Buoys. (V.A. Dover, 1455/4).

Milford Haven. — Port closed, mines by enemy A/C. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1946/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat. — One in 52°15' N. 2° 5'E. (WORCESTER 0012/4).
E-Boat escaped to S.E. (WORCESTER 0039/4).

GRIEF, FALKE, WOLFE — (Enemy Destroyers) Good indications that they arrived off Boulogne at 0639 today, probably proceeding Eastwards. (V.A. Dover 1057/4 to Adty.)

1 Destroyer, 3 Flak Ships — At 0925 sighted in 58°58'N. 5°23'E. steering South. A/C report. (F.O. S/M's 1141/4 to S/M's Area A).

TALISMAN
Report of 25/11 and 2/12. — At 1000/25 three Mowe class destroyers in position 220 Penmen 15 ~~Lopfes~~ 290°.
At 1503/25 attacked camouflaged tanker in a position 265 Penmen 13 course 90° result uncertain. At 1300/2 one unidentified destroyer in position 260 Penmen 20 miles course 300°. Pen Marche lit at full power on 5 nights. Daily A/S trawlers sweep but no air patrol. (TALISMAN 1201/4 to S.2).

/ Motor Ship. .....

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Motor Ship. — One 6000 ton Motor Ship sighted by A/C at 1144 in 62° 8' N. 5° 5' E. steering South at 9 knots. (V.A.S. 1224/4 and 1331/4).

Sloop. — Sighted by A/C at 1130 in 61°45'N. 5°5'E. steering 225° at 15 knots. (H.Q.C.C. 1130/4 and V.A.S. 1239/4).

5 M/V's. — Aircraft report two merchant ships of 6000 and 2000 tons 062° 15' N. 005° 32'E. course 350° 10 knots at 1130. Also 3 merchant ships 062° 04' N. 005° 10' E. course 227° 10 knots at 1130. (V.A.S. 1304/4).

Convoy of 17 M/V's. — At 1447 in 51°5' N. 2°29' E. A/C saw a Convoy of 17 M/V's and 4 E-Boats steering 065° at 6 to 8 knots. (Chatham 1900/4)

Warships. — One large and several smaller Warships reported to have passed Northwards through Vattlestraum in Bergen area at 1100/1. Graded C.3. (D.D.I.C. 2200/4 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Technical.

U-Boat D/F Frequency. — Experiments in s.s. BEACHY have been unsuccessful. Further experiments to be made in 2 Liverpool Destroyers on normal Escort Duty. Particulars. C.in C. W.A. to report names of Destroyers detailed. (A.C.N.S. T. 1939/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

REFAST. (British Tanker, 5189 tons) Arrived in tow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1637/4).

SUNBEAM. (Motor Boat) Delayed by engine failure towing EILEEN M. from North Goodwins. (SUNBEAM 1645/4).

DALEBY. (British, 4640 tons) Grounded in Tees mouth, north of Channel, 315° South Gare at 1945/4. Tugs failed to float and will attend again at 0600/5. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2255/4 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B.254. Sailed SANDWICH and GARLAND escorting O.B. 254. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1005/4).

H.G. 47. ROCHESTER arrived with H.G.47. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1125/4).

W.N. 48. CUROCOA left Scapa 1204/4 for W.N.48. (A.C.O.S. 1235/4).

H.X.90. Request obtain all available information from Commodores and Masters with regard to attacks on Convoy. Forward reports to Admty. and C.in C. W.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1254/4 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Arrived ROOKLEY, JERSEY, HANNINGTON COURT, ALVARO, CORBIS. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1715/4).

My 1254/4. Request Capts. D. may be associated with these enquiries from point of view of any escorts present at these attacks. (C.in C. W.A. 1930/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Clyde arrival GENTIAN with 64 survivors of H.X.90.
Intend sailing her Liverpool 1200/5. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1945/4).

F.S.52. My 2159/3. Humber still closed. TIGER and WINDSOR referred to in my 1730/3 and 1537/3 will not now join F.S.52. (C.in C. Rosyth 1509/4).

4 M.V's, ST. CATHAN, (Br. 565 tons) PEARL. (Br. 678 tons) Your 1410/3 and C. in C. Portsmouth 1917/3. 4 M.V's and ST. CATHAN, PEARL arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1136/4).

POUYER QUERTIER, SCHELDT (Br. 497 tons) My 1257/4. Sailed (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1735/4).

O.B. 256. Route. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1225/4).

S.C.14. My 1116/2 for FORFAR read SALOPIAN. Escorts have been informed of your movements. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1603/4, to PORPOISE).

Positions. Ocean convoys at 0900/4, p.c. and s. (D.T.D., 1352/4 to C.in C. H.F.).

H.X. and S.C. Escorts. Cancel instructions in my 1801/11/3/40 and substitute -
H.X. and S.C. ocean escorts returning to base are to part company 24 hours before arrival at R.V. (D.T.D., 1923/4 to R.A.3 and C.O.A.C. Halifax).

C.W.19. Route. (C.in C. Nore to N.C.S.O. Thames, BERKELEY, CLEVELAND, ACACIA, 1816/4).

/LORD ESSENDEN, ...

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

LORD ESSENDEN, VICTRIX	My 1137/4 (re sailing A/S Trawlers LORD ESSENDEN, VICTRIX escorting 4 M/V's) sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1750/4).
6 M.V's	Intend sailing 1800/5 for St. Helena Roads 6 M/V's including 2 tankers and 2 H.M. Balloon vessels escorted by BOUCLIER and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE e.t.a. QZS 0815/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).
H.X.88.	On time at R.V., all ships except DIPLOMAT (straggler) torpedoed and sank and PARTNIA, sunk in collision in North Channel. (D.T.D. 1719/4).
H.X. 87.	On time at R.V. 7 stragglers due to continuous gales. All now arrived except CHARLES P. MEYER (straggler) damaged by torpedo (D.T.D. 1720/4).
H.X.93. S.H.X.93.	Sailing telegram. Escorts AURANIA B.H.X., MALOJA, S.H.X., ELK and HICKY. (N.S. Dockyard, Halifax, 1118/4) Greek ELENI sailed with W/T sealed (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1300/4).
S.C.13.	Estimated position at 1600. (C.in C. W.A., 1630/4, to WELLINGTON).
H.X.91.	Your 1116/4. Expect to arrive R.V. 2300 G.M.T./6. PACIFIC, SPAR, ELENI, AROSA straggled and not informed of changed route. (REVENGE to A.C.W.A., 1746/4).
E.N.36.	H.M.T's ELLESMERE and CAPE APOONA. Additiona escort JASON. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2231/4).
O.B.C. 254.	Sailed. Escort HEARTSEASE, BLYSKAWICA, CHEVREUIL. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2110/4).
U/B and Air Attack, Precautions.	Admiralty 1146/4/6, 1858/29/8 and A.M.S.I.183 cancelled and following substituted:- With reference to D.M.S. Part I (B.R. 136(1) Article 53, it is now considered clear that in submarine and air operations the enemy has adopted a policy of attacking merchant ships without warning. Warships and disguised raiders are acting in a similar manner and Masters of ships must be on the alert and the defensive armament brought to a state of instant readiness whenever a strange vessel is sighted. In opening fire Masters should be guided by the instructions contained in sub-paragraph (b) of the above article, and as regards E boats by the special instructions contained in A.M. 1720/24/11.

/ Following .....

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U/B and Air Attack, Precautions. (Contd.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Following footnote to be added to Article quoted.
N.B. At present it is considered that enemy submarines may be encountered in Home Waters, in the Atlantic to the east of 45° W, in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and Indian Ocean including the Persian Gulf. Outside these areas all possible care should be taken before opening fire on a submarine to make sure that it is an enemy submarine. (Head of(M) 2102/4 to "A" Message H and A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

MARECHAL JOFFRE. (French M/V. 11732 tons) Repatriation.

Shortly leaving Indo China for France via Madagascar should be intercepted and taken into British Port. On arrival cargo should be reported to Admty. and ship detained pending instructions (Hd. of M. 1552/4 to C.in C. China).
Your 1845/30/11. Regret safe conduct cannot be granted. Against our policy to allow troops or foodstuffs to enter Vichy Colonies. May also be Free French Troops on board being taken to France for trial and internment. (Hd. of M. 1555/4 to N.A. Madrid).

ILE DE FRANCE. (French M/V. 43450 tons) Repatriation.

My 0531/30/11. Amend arrival to read 26/12, due altered itinerary since departure Singapore. (R.A. Malaya, 0515/4 to Adty).

VILLE DE VERDUN.

S.O.(I) Capetown 1023/28 and S.O.(I) Gib. 1052/3. If VILLE DE VERDUN intercepted without escort she should be sent in to a British Port.
(D.E.W.D. 1128/4 to C.in C. S.A.)

French ship VILLE DE VERDUN passed Straits of Gibraltar Westbound 29/11 believed bound for Madagascar. If encountered and not escorted she is to be sent in to a British Port.
(C.in C. S.A. 2013/4 to NEWCASTLE, HERMES, DRAGON, FURIOUS, DIDO).

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

My 0540/4 (to EDINBURGH) and Adty. 2258/3. R/V with DESPATCH, ARGUS, Motor A/S Boat 24 escorted by FORESTER, VELOX, ECLIPSE, (position at 0900 zone - 1 on 6/12. Onward route, from R/V through (position) thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. KELVIN and JAGUAR will join later and relieve local escort. DESPATCH will part company when you join.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1054/4 to EDINBURGH amended by F.O.C.N.A. 1584/4.)
Admty. 1349/4. Proceed to Gibraltar report E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1638/4 to EDINBURGH)

DESPATCH.

Gibraltar departure 1800/4 e.t.a. Bermuda 0600 (zone + 4) 13/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1802/4 to C.in C. A. & W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARK ROYAL. — My 1020/30.(Minor defects ARK ROYAL.) ARK ROYAL now at normal notice for steam. (S.O.(I) Force H. 0600/4).

KELVIN. JAGUAR. — My 0552/4. (not to Adty) KELVIN, JAGUAR return at best speed. (F.O.C.N.A. 0900/4).

South Atlantic.

ROSS. (Br. 4978 tons) CLAN MACWHIRTER. (Br. 5941 tons) — Cancel my 1105/2. Arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0935/4).

FURIOUS. DIDO. — Adty. 2258/3, 0046/25/11, 1531/25/11, C.in C. W.A. 2138/27/11 and my 0959/3. Request information as to arrangements for escort FURIOUS and DIDO from latitude Gib. to 304 since JAGUAR and KELVIN appear to be no longer available. Adty. 2258/3. (C.in C. S.A. 1153/4 to Adty).

EDINBURGH. FURIOUS. DIDO. Etc. — C.in C. South Atlantic 0959/3 and my 2258/3 neither to all addressees. In order to economise escorts, EDINBURGH, FURIOUS, DIDO, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, KELVIN and JAGUAR are to proceed to U.K. in company. FURIOUS to Liverpool, EDINBURGH and DIDO to Scapa, ARGUS and FRANCONIA to Clyde. My 2258/3 is to be amended accordingly. (D.O.D.(F) 1349/4 to C.in C's S.A. W.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

Water Rationing. — Your 1941/1/12. This water tanker will be of great assistance. It had already been decided to ask for a tanker to bring water from Takoradi during the dry season and it is proposed that the tanker with WS5A shall be retained for this purpose. Water situation will otherwise be acute later. Rationing has already begun on shore. (C.in C. S.A. 1345/4 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoys, Fuel and Water.

Your 1756/27/11 gave requirements of convoy W.S.4.B. at Freetown as fuel oil 6,000 tons, water Nil. The amounts actually supplied to enable ships to reach Durban with a margin of two days were fuel oil 9,200 tons, water 4,690 tons. With such discrepancy between signalled and actual requirements it is impossible to avoid delays. Water expenditure per day in the various transports varied between 5 and 14 gallons per man. Request measure to (a) give a more accurate forecast of requirements (b) limit expenditure of water in transports to 6 gallons per man per day.
(C.in C. S.A. 2009/4 to Adty).

Mediterranean.

Malta. Air Report.

Sunderland reconnaissance, and Swordfish A/S patrol. No other operations due to weather. No enemy air activity. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/4).

Proposed Operation.

For Force H. and aircraft from ARK ROYAL C.in C. Med. 1548/18 and Adty. 1558/28. Observations. (S.O. Force H, 1801/4). See Med. Vol.

C.S.3. Glasgow.

My 2205/3. At 2300. C.S.3. reported he was returning to Alexandria, GLASGOW in company, speed 16 knots. (C.in C. Med. 0849/4).

Spezzia Docks.

My 1835/3. Ref. plan in C.B.1712. Spezzia No.6 dock has been lengthened and and now holds 8-inch gun cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1131/4).

EAGLE. Cruisers, fast minesweepers.

Situation referred to in Adty 1917/24/11 has raised certain considerations. (C.in C. Med. 1959/4 to Adty). See Med.Vol.

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mine.

Floating mine reported in an Italian broadcast 13 miles E. of Pantellaria. (D.5. 457).

Movements.
A.N.8.
A.S.6.
A.N.9.

Summary 173. Convoy A.N.8. escorted VOYAGER and VENDETTA, Left (position) for Laso Straits and Piraeus. CALCUTTA left A.N.8. to meet A.S.6. and will leave A.S.6. south of Kaso Straits to rejoin A.N.8. GLOUCESTER meets YORK 1200/5 to cover convoy. DEFENDER escorting A.N.9 leaves a.m./5 for Suda Bay. ILEX leaves Alexandria to meet DEFENDER 1200/6. (C.in C. Med. 2247/4).

Enemy Air Targets from Malta.

Your 1501/30. Signal was addressed to V.A. Malta as connecting link with A.O.C. Mediterranean vide additional signal 1752/26. The change in policy to that in para.7(a) of your 2015/22/8 was realised and considered justifiable in present circumstances. Final decision however is left to you.
(1st S.L. 0002/4, to C.in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT.
CHAMPOLLIN.

UPRIGHT has nothing of interest to report in area North of Palermo. CHAMPOLLIN and one other French liner sighted off Ustica bound for Bonifacio. No major defects. Will be ready for patrol (date)
(N.O.I.C. Malta. 1135/4 to C.in C. Med.)

UPHOLDER.
USK.
UNIQUE.

Your 1111/3. The three Submarines from 1st Flotilla will be relieved by UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE from 5th Flotilla.
(D.O.D.(H) 1222/4 to C.in C. Med.)

Supply Ship Bombed.

Operational Summary No.177 up to 1200/4. Greece. Day 3/12. 3 Blenheims dive-bombed enemy supply ship in Sarande Bay all bombs falling 50 yards astern, 1 Blenheim also machine gunned ship damaged unobserved.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1338/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RATNAGIRI.
PARVATI.
NETRAVATI.

Adty. 1732/28.Government of India have approved three A/S vessels to operate under S.N.O. Red Sea. Ships selected RATNAGIRI,PARVATI,NETRAVATI date they will be ready to proceed will be reported as soon as possible.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0504Z/4 amended 2230Z/5).

W.S.4.B.
Escort.

My 1154 30/11. Para.2. Cancel and substitute: CORNWALL and KANIMBLA will escort to position G then proceed to Aden. Para.6. Cancel last sentence and substitute SHROPSHIRE will escort to position W (See para.9) and then proceed to Aden. DEVONSHIRE will escort until relieved by SOUTHAMPTON. SOUTHAMPTON will escort to position W and then proceed Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 0720Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

B.S.9½.

Request ANTENOR be sailed to give cover to B.S.9½ ships proceeding Bombay. ANTENOR should arrive 017° N., 070° E., at dusk thence proceed Colombo through 008° N., 064° E., to arrive a.m. 14/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 0738Z/4 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

U.S.8.

Your 2142/30/11 para. 2. As transhipment of troops at Trincomalee will apparently be a regular practice request urgent consideration may be given to proposal in para.3. of my 1254/22/11. Application for use of tug SIR CUTHRIE RUSSEL for forthcoming operation has already been made but no answer yet received. Fuel and water requirements can be met. Re military Embarkation staff.
(C.in C. E.I. 0744/4 to Adty).

Guns at
Diego Suarez.

Your 0704/25, my 1143/23, para.two (q), for 380 mm. guns read 80 mm. guns. Number not known but further information may be obtainable later.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0904B/4 to C.in C.E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

TEDDY. — Master of British ship HAIYANG reports on 3/12 in position 005° 30'N., 082° 05'E., he passed through patch of fuel oil ¼ mile long, breadth unmentioned. Having previously passed through another and smaller patch near by. This might be cargo of Norwegian tanker TEDDY vide S.O.(I) Singapore 0145/22/11 rather than of OLE JACOB in view of Capt:O.S. Singapore 0348/14. No wreckage seen. (C.in C. E.I. 1152/4).

OROPESA. (Br. M/V 14118 tons). — Your 2203/22. OROPESA did not call Aden for water as water was conserved. Master's report shows that even then consumption was considerably above minimum regulation allowance. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1251/4 to D. of S.T.)

Air Escort. — Operational Summary No. 175 for 24 hours ending 1500 4/12. 6 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter escort 3 for convoy B.N.10 and 3 for B.S.9½. 1 returning aircraft reconnoitred Assab Harbour 0740 - no shipping changes. No casualties all times G.M.T. (A.H.Q.Aden 1742/4).

B.S.10. — Convoy sailing telegram. Escorts GRIMSBY, CLIVE. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1719/4).

HERMES. DRAGON. — Admty. 1917/24/11. HERMES and DRAGON sailed Freetown 3/12 proceeding to St. Helena by way of neighbourhood Ascension, carrying out air search south of lat. 005 degrees south. Then operate St. Helena area until (date) when will refuel and replenish aviation spirit at St.Helena subsequently operating Western side edge St. Helena Cape route. (C.in C. S.A., 1905N/4 to Adty).

B.S.10. — Departure GRIMSBY 0630/4 with B.S.10. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2203/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Dutch Staff Talks.

For Chiefs of Staff from C.in C. Far East and C.in C. China. In continuation of our 01412/28, following is report of Staff conversations with Officers of Dutch East Indies on 26/11 to 29/11.
(C.in C. China, 0241Z/4) See Operations Vol.

Far East Policy.

Your 1003/28/11. C.O.S. Far East appreciation memo (4) 592 was forwarded with Admiralty Letter M.017692/40 of 8/9 per H.M.T. BRITANNIC to Capetown thence per S.S. ISIPINGO to Colombo arriving there 10/11 (Approx). Captain in Charge, Ceylon has been asked by wire re method of onward despatch. C.O.S. memo 40 (605) was forwarded with Admiralty Letter M/P.D. 09175/40 of 30th/10 per S.S. ADRASTUS bound for Shanghai and due Capetown 1/12. Copies Nos. 1-6 of tactical appreciation of Malaya, referred to in your 0253Z of 19/10 have been received. No message 0911Z of 1/11 and no copies of Singapore Conference report yet received. Only Telegraphic Summary of report Parts 1-10 as contained in your 1031Z/31/10.
(Hd. of M. 2008/4 to C.in C.China).

America and West Indies.

U.S.Bases.

Question of security in connection with U.S.labour. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1133/4).

CARADOC.
VAN KINSBERGEN.

CARADOC proceed to arrive in 024° 00'N., 085° 50'W., by 0700 R/5. Netherland Gunnery Training Ship VAN KINSBERGEN R/V with CARADOC at above time if IDARWALD not intercepted 4/12. CARADOC should then take VAN KINSBERGEN under her orders and endeavour to intercept enemy ships.
(C.in C. N. & W.I. 1221/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MORMACWREN.

U.S.Ship MORMACWREN from South America Port to Boston called at Bermuda 26/11. Had on board several hundred bags of Coffee from Theodor Wille of Santos Brazil (W T L Black List) for U.S.A. Request instructions whether goods consigned to or from firms on Black List should be removed at Bermuda from U.S. ships bound between North and South Ameria.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/4 to Adty).

"Town Class" Destroyers.

Reference 1615/29/11 S.O. Halifax Force. SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR. Expected time of arrival Point B. 1130 G.M.T. 10/12. Admiralty pass to C.in C. W.A. (N.O.I.C. St.Johns N.F. 1639/4 to to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

My 1639/4. Destroyers sailed from St. John's N.F. 1530 G.M.T. today.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's 2021/4).

PENNLAND.

D. of S.T. 1853/3. Request amount of refrigertor cargo space for cured meats and ordinary cargo space which will be available in PENNLAND. Full number of 2593 personnel will be embarked at Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa. 1126/4 to N.O.I.C. Kingston).

Australia.

Mined Area.

A danger area of 30 miles radius has been declared off Cape Otway. (D.S.457).

Your 0829/28. Para? (2) of D.S.T's 2117/2. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA will require at least four days to coal, clean ship and embark troops. She cannot therefore sail before (date). Not possible to say whether she can be fitted additional accommodation until inspected on arrival. In these circumstances and to avoid appropriating AWATEA (which is required for transport of Australian and New Zealand reinforcements for Fiji) suggest sailing from Wellington be fixed for (date).
(N.Z.N.B., 0129Z/4, to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND. — Arrived Talcahuano this morning. (Puffin, Callao, 0905/4). (N.A, Santiago de Chile, 1000/4) (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1108/4).

RHEIN
IDARWALD. — Positions at 1200 Z plus 5 and 1400 Z plus 5, 3/12. (C.in C. A & W I 1951/4 to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE etc.)

NORBURG. — Left for Russia. (Macrae, Galatz, 1140/4).

GERMANIA
CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN
MADRID. — Your 1800/29. Am unable to ascertain reason for GERMANIA's arrival at Las Palmas but vessel has been moved to stern of German Oil Tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN and is being refuelled. Informed ship is loaded with gasoline estimated quantity 13000 tons. Provisioning of MADRID continues including large quantities of fresh meat and vegetables. (Consul Las Palmas 1745/4 to Adty).

KLAUS SCHOKE. (Captured 2/12). — My 0648/3. Position is less favourable. Details. Have 3 officers and 9 ratings on board who have knowledge of ship and work done to remain as navigating party. All Germans removed. Must stand by ship until arrival of ENCOUNTER and cannot make R/V ordered by V.A.N.P's 1414/2. (CALIFORNIA, 2004/4 to F.O.C.N.A., V.A.N.P)

Following is a repetition of my 1005/4. Ref: 1540/3 from F.O.C.N.A. position at 2000/3 038° 15'N., 022° 12'W., with tendency to drift westward. Prize will show white all round light (ends) Amended by my 1451/4 giving position 037° 57'N., 022° 21'W., drifting 200 degrees one knot. (CALIFORNIA 2314/4 to F.O.C.N.A. ENCOUNTER).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FRANCO MARTELLI.

Your 1220/3. It is confirmed that cargo was paid for yesterday. The guard was removed in afternoon but local formalities for final release are not yet complete.
(Consul, Pernambuco 1004/4 to N.A., Rio de Janeiro.)

Port Limon.

N.A.Washington 1824/29 Port Limon supplies to Italian ships over the normal for requirements of crews.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1221/4 to Adty).

AEQUITAS.

My 1535/9 and my 1550/20. I earnestly advise that passage of Italian AEQUITAS which passed Pernambuco 2/12 southbound under Brazilian escort is not interfered with in any way by us.
(N.A.Rio de Janeiro 1728/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)

VITTORIO VENETO.
INEZ CORRADO.

Bahia Blanca reports VITTORIO VENETO with 6,500 tons wheat on board commenced unloading today at the rate of 300 tons per diem delivery to Merixe Hermanos. When she has finished INEZ CORRADO 7,366 tons wheat will do likewise.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1801/4 to Cdre. S.A.D. etc.)

French Merchant Ships.

MINERVA.

Master of ANNEBERG (Finnish) received instructions from charterers agent Trapp & Co., Newcastle on Tyne deliver cargo to French Consul Las Palmas. MINERVA now alongside ANNEBERG transhipping parts of cargo. Understand 2 other French Trawlers will come from Casablanca to load rest of cargo.
(Consul, Las Palmas. 1340/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WILHELMINA. (torpedoed 2/12). — 34 survivors landed Greenock. 5 are missing. (D.5. 457).

H.X.90. — Clyde arrival GENTAIN with 64 survivors of H.X.90. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1945/4).

STIRLINGSHIRE
VICTOR ROSS
(torpedoed 2/12). — STIRLINGSHIRE torpedoed in 055 42' N., 016° 13' west, at 1734/2 and VICTOR ROSS torpedoed in 056° 04' N., 018° 30'W., at 0853/2 may still be afloat. Investigate and report.
(C.in C. W.A., 0114/4 to HURRICANE, HESPERUS).

VICTOR ROSS. — Proceed with despatch to assistance of S.S. VICTOR ROSS in position 56° 04' N., 18° 30'W. at 0752/2.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0950/4 to ENGLISHMAN)

Sailed tug ENGLISHMAN from Ardrossan at 1324 in accordance with my 0950/4.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/4).

Your 0114. Am searching for STIRLINGSHIRE HURRICANE in company. Shall be unable to reach position of VICTOR ROSS during daylight today in present conditions. Weather report:
(HESPERUS, 1030/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

SAGUENAY (torpedoed 1/12).
RAJAHSTAN (torpedoed 2/12). — On passing Mull of Kintyre one trawler is to continue escorting SCHELDE and SAGUENAY to Barrow in Furness. The other two are to proceed to Londonderry to refuel and then to escort RAJAHSTAN with SEAMAN and Tug THAMES position course and speed at 0001/4 was 054° 50'N., 015° 10'W 080° 3 knots.
(C.in C. W.A. 0132/4 to FOXTROT).

Following received F.O.I.C. Greenock from SCHELDE. Have anchored SAGUENAY in Rothesay Bay and am connecting; propose proceeding Barrow in Furness 0400 to-morrow. Out -- view threatening weather, suggest second tug be sent from Holyhead or Campbeltown immediately to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/4 to Adty. etc.)

AMSTERDAM. — Your 1550/ . Rescue tug AMSTERDAM will be sailed from Holyhead to your assistance.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1949/4 to SCHELDE, amended 2340/4).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

SAGUENAY, details of attack.

Attack on SAGUENAY while escorting H.G.47 1/12. Disposition of escorts, HIGHLANDER day position O for A.S.V., ROCHESTER astern. SAGUENAY having been stationed in day position P had lost touch and was on post quarter of convoy. Convoy speed 7 knots, no zig-zag. 0350 visibility 2 miles, SAGUENAY speed 12 knots sig-sagging was hit right forward port side. U/Boat fired red bombette which broke into three green stars very shortly before SAGUENAY was hit. U/Boat was then sighted red 120 about 1,000 yards from SAGUENAY who fired two rounds at it. First round may have hit. SAGUENAY had been keeping listening watch only and heard nothing. Probable approach of U/Boat was from port quarter, and because no other ships were attacked he probably retired the way he had come. Information from SAGUENAY is hearsay from Officer of the watch and other officers, and should be confirmed by C.O. Recommend that A/S transmitting at night should be re-instituted forthwith. (Capt: D. Liverpool, 1901/4, to Adty).

LOCH RANZA. (torpedoed 2/12).

Report situation and your position. THAMES has LOCH RANZA in tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0910/4 to SALVONIA).

LOCH RANZA CONCH. (torpedoed 2/12).

Your 0825/4. (No trace in W.R.) Tug THAMES has made contact with LOCH RANZA Proceed forthwith to carry out search for CONCH in position 55° 40'N., 19° 00'W., at 0645/2 and VICTOR ROSS in position 56° 04'N., 18° 30'W. at 0752/2 SUPERMAN also searching. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1150/4, to SALVONIA).

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine's Reported.

2145/3. O. i/c armed guard in French schooner LES GEMEAUX reports having sighted U-boat at 2145/3 off Spartel steering due West, graded A.2. (F.O.C.N.A., 1717/4, S.O.I. Gib., 2118/4).

2029. D.F., very unreliable fix 47.30 N. to 48.30 N., 09.00 W. to 10.30 W. (C.in C. W.A., 2106/4 to KASHMIR, amended 2258/4).

1200 Small U/B believed about 49° N., 11° W., proceeding to Lorient, speed 8 to 12 knots. Orders to CACHALOT, THUNDERBOLT, TRIBUNE for destruction of U/B. (C.in C. W.A., 1450/4 amended 2038/4 to KASHMIR, KIPLING, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER for information, KASHMIR to cancel operation if weather unsuitable.)

Tangier. Tangier reports 2100/4 both Italian U-boats still in harbour. (S.O.I., Gib., 2118/4).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian
1 about 250 miles West of Lisbon 1200/3
1 off Portugal Northbound.
3 in N.W. Approaches one of these in vicinity of Rosemary Bank one about 56° N. 21° W. at 0205/3.

German
No news of the one in Cape De Verde area
1 about 49° N. 11° W. bound for Lorient 1 about 51° N. 11° W. outward bound.
1 south of 55° N. West of 20° W.
1 in about 54° 50' N. 16° 40' W. at 1459/3
1 in 57° N. 17° 10' W. at 1500/3 may have moved a little South.
1 in about 56° N. 14° W. at 1007/3
1 in about 56° 30' N. 10° 40' W. at 1448/3
1 may be patrolling about 150 miles south of Iceland. (D.D.I.C. 1316/4).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Northern Patrol. A/S Trawlers.

Your 2006/4 and VANP. 1554/4. Examination Vessel not yet ready. If essential, propose A/S Trawlers attached to Faeroes be supplied with Key Memoranda. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0930/5 to A.C.O.S.)

Administration of Cruisers.

As from 6/12 all cruisers in Home Waters are placed under the administration of C.in C. H.F. Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands will be made as follows when it is necessary to station them in the South for anti- invasion or other duties:

A. Either the 2nd or 15th C.S., or part of them, will be placed under the temporary operational control of C.in C. Nore and stationed at either the Nore or the Humber.

B. Either the 10th or 18th C.S., or part of them will be placed under the temporary operational Control of C.in C. W.A. and stationed at Plymouth or Clyde.

C. Adty. will give instructions regarding the number of cruisers to be detailed in accordance with A and B.

D. C.in C. H.F. will order reliefs as necessary.
(1st S.L. 1400/5 to C's in C.)

Aircraft at Hatston.

Re training of 816 and 825 Squadrons. (C.in C. H.F. 1539/5 to Adty).

Possible Air Attack on Fleet.

Your 1223/3. Disposition of German A/C able to carry torpedoes is as follows. (D.D.I.C. 1800/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

Your 1746/3. Can particulars be given of any known form of floating flare which might be dropped by aircraft to illuminate anchorage. (C.in C. H.F. 1913/5 to Adty).

Western Approaches. Further A/S Vessels requested.

Of third M A/S B Flotilla only three remain effective, three are undergoing large repairs and remaining two have defects which will take four weeks. This is not sufficient to deal with the E/Boat attacks on Merchant Vessels and a further allocation, if possible of a Flotilla is requested.
(C.in C. W.A. 1852/5 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/5. (D.C. 1140/5). At 2330/5. (D.C. 2352/5).

M/V's Off. Wilhelmshavn. At least 50 M/V's reported by A/C off Wilhelmshavn at 0853 today apparently sailing. In view of weather, unlikely to constitute an immediate threat. H.Q.C.C. requested to confirm this by R/C at dawn tomorrow. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2016/5 to C's in C.)

Movements.

RODNEY. One Battleship or HOOD is to be sailed as soon as practicable to cover incoming Halifax Convoy. Ship will not enter Halifax. (1st S.L. 0122/5 to C.in C. H.F).

RODNEY screened by 4 Destroyers to sail at 0830/5 towards Halifax. Route to 60° N, 25° W., whence Destroyers are to return to Scapa at best speed. Request A/S air Escort as far to Westward as possible. (C.in C. H.F. 0344/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

A/S Escort is being provided by 1 Hudson which will be relieved by another Hudson about 1230. (C.in C. Rosyth 0854/5 to RODNEY).

Sailed at 0900 RODNEY with ESCAPADE, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, and SIKH. (A.C.O.S. 1006/5).

RODNEY to R/V with Convoy HX.93, escort Convoy homeward to about 25° W., and then part company and proceed to Scapa. C.in C. H.F. requested to arrange A/S Escort accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 1652/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.
JUPITER.
PUNJABI. Sailed 1619/4 from Plymouth. (C.in C. W.A. 0152/5).

Nore Command. Ships out of Action. My 0940/2/12. Amend as follows. (C.in C. Nore 0736/5).

DOUGLAS, KEPPEL. Arrived Port ZA. 0845/5. (TRELAWNEY 0853/5 to R.A.D. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

FRANKLIN. Sailed Yarmouth with A/T IRVANA at 0850. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0900/5).

JACKAL. Arrived Humber 0915/5. (F.O.Humber 0924/5).

DUNEDIN. Is at 4 hours Notice for full power until 1600/6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1239/5).

Dover. Dispositions for night 5/6. (V.A.Dover 1258/5).

Portsmouth. Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/5).

FORMIDABLE.
BEVERLEY.
BURNHAM. Cancel my 1638/4. BEVERLEY, BURNHAM are to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 1800/7 to carry out Flying exercises a.m./8 thence proceeding Greenock. On conclusion FORMIDABLE is to detach BEVERLEY to Liverpool, BURNHAM to Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A. 1510/5 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

SHELDRAKE.
FRANKLIN. Arrived Harwich 1509/5. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1514/5).

Orkneys. Movements for night 5/6 (A.C.O.S. 1541/5).

WIDGEON. My position at 1720, 53° 9'N., 1° 14'E. proceeding down Q.Z.S.40. (WIDGEON 1722/5 to EGRET).

ASHANTI.
FAME. Your 1146. (completion dates). ASHANTI 5 to 6 months. FAME 9 to 10 months. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1731/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

KENYA. C.in C. W.A. 1129/5. Request you defer sailing KENYA till after arrival of NIGERIA at Scapa and transfer of flag. (V.C.N.S. 1843/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

GLENGYLE.
GLENROY.

My 0933/4. Date of embarkation at Gourock is now either p.m./7 or a.m./8. (A.D.O.D. C.O. 1159/5 to F.O.I.C.Glasgow)

BERKELEY.

VANOC, FERNIE, WITHERINGTON will be patrolling south of Convoy Route. Try to locate them by A.S.V. and record result. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1417/5 to BERKELEY).

VANOC
FERNIE
WITHERINGTON.

Will patrol to South of Convoy Route to-night between Owers and Royal Sovereign returning Portsmouth at daylight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1427/5 to Adty).

Operation MONSOON.

Cancel my 1531/25. (Re-fit of FURIOUS) (D.O.D.H. 1851/5). My 1349/4. FURIOUS will carry out repeat of operation STRIPE to be known as MONSOON. FURIOUS to be ready to sail by (date). (D.O.D. H. 1852/5 to C.in C. W.A.) See Operation Vol

Iceland.

CHITRAL arrived and sailed 2200 G.M.T.
LETITIA arrived 2230 G.M.T.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 2301/5 to V.A.N.P.)

Dover Shelled.

Batteries at Calais, Wissant, and Gris Nez fired 101 rounds at C.W.19 between 1806 and 2011, of which 5 fell in Dover Harbour. One Naval Rating slightly wounded. No other casualties or damage reported. (V.A.Dover 2044/5).

Submarines.

UPHOLDER
USK
UNIQUE.

S.5. is to sail UPHOLDER 10/12 and USK and UNIQUE 11/12 for Gibraltar. Route. (V.A.S. 1258/5).

URGE.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2102/4. P.C.74 is to arrive Barrow p.m./9 to escort URGE to Clyde 10/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1316/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

My 2102/4. URGE delayed until 11/12. Request Escort may arrive Barrow 0830/10. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

SURPTSH. Leave patrol at 1300/7. Route to Gap A. (S.6 1555/5).

WHITE BEAR. Expected time of arrival Holy Loch 1200/8. (S.9. 1619/5).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/6. (V.A.S. 1649/5).

SEALION. Arriving Blyth 1305. (SEALION 1850/5).

TALISMAN. Arrived. (F.O. Greenock 2140/5 to Adty).

British Air Activity.

Reconnaissance of Narvik. Sunderland left Sullom Voe at 0300. (C.in C. Rosyth 0334/5).

Patrols. My 2244/30. Following Patrols ordered today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0548/4).
2 A/S Patrols carried out. (200 Group 1730/5 to Air Ministry).

Operation SPECIMEN. Three aircraft are at Aldergrove and will move to Sydenham Belfast tomorrow.
One aircraft is unserviceable, and spare aircraft is being flown to Sydenham from Donibristle tomorrow Friday.
(R.A.N.A.S. 1658/5 to Adty).

Calais. Docks and shipping attacked on Night 4/5. (H.Q.B.C. 1707/5).

Rosyth. My A.169/21/10. Rosyth Area now reverts to normal Defended Area conditions.
(H.Q.F.C. 1910/5 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Marchwood. — Air-Raid Night 1/2. Damage about £3000 Details. (Supt:C.E.Portsmouth 1015/5).

C.W. Convoy. — Being shadowed by 1 aircraft in 51° 18'N., 1° 13'E. (BERKELEY 1530/5).

Lowestoft. — At 1823 aircraft dropped about 18 bombs in and near Hamilton Dock and machine-gunned P.W.S.S. Few civilian casualties. Examination Vessel THISTLE damaged. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1905/5).

Dover. — 2 aircraft dropped bombs near M/S Trawlers off Dover at 1450 today. No damage (V.A.Dover 2044/5).

Air Raid on Portsmouth. — Air Raid on Portsmouth 1814 - 2030 Following damage to Admiralty property so far known. VERNON damage.29 Casualties. Direct hit by H.E.Bomb on CAMERON in No.8 Dock. Vessel seriously damaged and oil fuel burning. Some casualties. Clarence Yard fire. Minor damage in DOLPHIN. Suspected U.X.B's at Eastney and Dockyard. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2200/5).

Mining.

Humber. — Open. (F.O. Humber 0522/5).

Ardnamurchan Point. — Your 2118/4. My 2020/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock reads as follows. Master of Northern Lighthouses Vessel HESPERUS states Moored Mine ~~behind~~ lifted German sighted 1000/3 about 2 miles W. of Ardnamurchan Point. Fired 400 rounds S.A.A. but mine did not sink. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1000/5 to Adty).

Operation O.O.2. — Your 1348/4. Intend to lay from 48° 33'N., 9° 44'W., as in Adty. 1013/26, not 48° 35' as in your 1348/4. (ADVENTURE 1125/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1348/4, para.6. Add after 6° W, keeping to N. of 47° 45' N., (C.in C. W.A. 1216/5 to S.O. 5th D.F.)

Milford Haven. — Open, subject to local restriction. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1205/5).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

PORT NAPIER. As board of Inquiry has not elucidated nature of Explosions causing loss of ship, consider investigation desirable. Assistance of experts necessary. (R.A.M.L. 1259/5 to Adty).

S.N.10A. Departed Port ZA at 1530/5, R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BATH, KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, ST. ALBANS. (TRELAWNEY 1532/5 to Adty). REPULSE with SOMALI MASHONA, ESKIMO, BEDOUIN left Scapa 1735/5 as cover escort (A.C.O.S. 1805/5).

Thames Estuary. Explosions and Fireworks seen during night 4/5. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1545/5 to C.in C. Nore).

ICARUS. C.in C. W.A. 1812/4. Sailed to anchor in Brixham Roads. She will weigh 2300/5. Expected time of arrival Nab 0815/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1801/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

M/V's Mined off Skagen. Your 1301/3.
(1) One Swedish fishing vessel mined North Skagen 6/11. 3 others southern end of German declared area since then.

(2) On 1/12 Danish fishing boat VICTORIA sunk off (? Valinby) South Skagen due to pear-shaped mine. (N.A. Stockholm 1052/5 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

German Torpedo A/C. Your 1223/3. Disposition of German A/C capable of carrying torpedoes is as follows. (D.D.I.C. 1800/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

M/V's off Wilhelmshavn. Aircraft report at 0853 today at least 50 M/V's off Wilhelmshaven apparently sailing. (A.C.N.S.H. 2016/5 to C's in C.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Laying-up Reports.

Request you will call for a short report from all cruisers, destroyers and sloops now under your command under the following headings and covering the period 1/8 to 1/12.

(a) Name of Commanding Officer or Officers.

(b) Periods, giving dates, during which ship has been laid up for any cause other than enemy action, excluding routine boiler cleaning.

(c) The reason for the ship being laid up in each of the periods given in (b).
(1st S.L. 0123/5 to C.in C. H.F. Portsmouth, Nore, W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

EXYAHNE. (M/S Trawler) Rescue Tug NORMAN sailed 0825/5 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0843/5 to Adty).

TAYGETOS. (Greek 5687 tons). Want immediate assistance. (TAYGETOS 0929/5). Position at 0919 about 54° 9'N., 12° 40'W. (C.in C. W.A. 0954/5 to WELLINGTON).

HEARTSEASE. Asdic out of action. E.T.A.Londonderry 1330. (HEARTSEASE 1040/5 to C.in C.W.A.)

SALTWICK. (British 3775 tons) Steering gear broken in 57° 10'N., 26° 30'W. (Valentia Radio 1324/5). Require immediate assistance. (SALTWICK 2017/5 to Adty).

M.L.125. Screw disabled. Being towed by VINCIA into Ramsgate. (BERKELEY 1537/5 to C.in C. Nore). Arrived (N.O.I.C.Ramsgate 1715/5 to Adty.)

ACHTA EIRINI. (Greek 4330 Tons). Steering gear broken. Want help at once. (Valentia Radio 1706/5). Main Engine broken too. (Valentia 1726/5). Position 52° 21'N., 23° 40'W. at 1658. (Port Patrick Radio, Recd. 1921/5)

LADY BERYL. (A/S Trawler) Collided on 4/12 with Middle Pier at Granton. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1737/5 to Adty).

SALVONIA. (Tug) Arrived Campbeltown with Engine defects (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2153/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

SOUTHERN STAR. (A/S Trawler) Has returned to Belfast with D/G defects. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 2330/5 to N.O.I.C.Oban).

EMPIRE THUNDER. (British, 5965 Tons). Main Engine disabled in 59° 9'N., 14° 40'W. Strong gale. Require immediate assistance. (EMPIRE THUNDER 2343/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PORT NAPIER.

As board of enquiry has not elucidated nature of heavy explosions resulting in the total loss of PORT NAPIER consider investigation desirable. Part of vessel is still above water and some evidence therefore remains. Assistance of experts is necessary.
(R.A.M.L. 1259/5).

STANBURN.

Keep a good look out for STANBURN estimated position at 1200/5 055° 10'N., 012° 12'W last heard of steering 080 degrees at about three knots CALENDULA or ASPHODEL report position if sighted.
(C.in C. W.A. 1311/5).

MOST SECRET

5.12.1940
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

Estimated Positions 0900/5

(D.T.D. to C. in C., HF., 1401/5)

O.B. 252 — Hove to (position) O.B. 252 scattered by gale yesterday and have lost touch with Commodore and HARVESTER during night. Oil fuel tank split and leaking. (HAVELOCK, 0945/5)

O.G. 46 — Gibraltar arrival 0700/5. DEPTFORD, WISHART ERON and HAARLEM escorting O.G. 46. (S.O.I. Gib., 0952/5)

E.N. 37 } W.N. 50 } — GLEANER to act as additional A/A escort. Code words "Might" and "Mutual" (C. in C., Rosyth, 1025/5) Details (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1612/5)

O.B. 254 — Sailed VESPER at 0700/5 to comply with C. in C., W.A., 1440/3. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1032/5) Amended route. (C. in C., W.A. 1540/5 to GARLAND, SANDWICH, etc.,)

S.L. 56 — My 1414/2, delete CALIFORNIA. Orders to CALIFORNIA (F.O.C.N.P., 1254/5, 2200/5)

6 M.V's — My 2236/4. Escort will be VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, 1300/5)

H.X. 90 B. — FOLKESTONE, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER arrived with H.X. 90 B. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1555/5)

H.X. 93 — RODNEY to R.V. and escort to about 25° W. (D.O.D. (H) 1652/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

W.N. 50 0 — Code "Limited" Escort unappropriated. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1901/5)

S.L. 56 } S.L. 57 } — Situation report at 1200/5. (D.O.D. (F) to CACHALOT, 2235/5) Orders to BULOLO and CANTON (C. in C., S.A., 1905/5- see South Atlantic)

S.L. 58 — KENT to escort (C. in C., S.A. 1905/5- see South Atlantic)

H.X. 94 — RAJPUTANA as ocean escort, returning to Halifax. Corvettes WINDFLOWER and TRILLIUM will also sail with H.X. 98 and to Clyde. (B.S. 3. 1759/5)

/F.S. 54.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys-Contd	**Shipping**
F.S. 54	Sailing Methil 1400/6. Expected to exceed 50 large ships. Hunt class destroyers to be sailed to meet between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough and act as additional escort to Sheerness. WOLFHOUND will continue S.O. of Escort. (C. in C., Nore 1830/5, to F.O.I.C. Harwich)
H.C. 48	Your 1128/4. Commodore should be privately instructed not to delay H.C. 48 to keep NETTIE in company. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1158/5)
S.C. 15	CILICIA leaves Clyde in O.B. 255 p.m./6, to act as ocean escort to S.C. 15 in about 44° W., (V.A.N.P., 1222/5 to CILICIA)
H.X. 93	Cancel route after B.H.X. junction and proceed as follows. RODNEY should meet you in about 40° W., When met AURANIA is to return to base. (D.O.D. (H) 1651/5 to AURANIA)
B.H.X. 94	Arrival ALAUNIA. Departure in accordance with my 1631/3 heavy ocean escort B.H.X. 94 returning St. John' N.B. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1043/5)
GUDRUN MAERSK	Admty 1157/15/11. Routes required for GUDRUN MAERSK, Oban for Capetown, speed 13 knots (N.C.S.O.Methil, 1020/5)
Spanish and Portuguese Ships	Trading to U.S.A. (See America and West Indies)
SATURNUS	Swedish tanker. Cable instructions received from Swedish F.O. (N.C.S.O. New York, to Admty. 1844/5)
Troop Convoys	
W.S. 5 A.	Provisionnl embarkation arrangements. (D. of S.T., 0800/5) In order that T.L.C's can be embarked and ships ready to sail (date) following movements of M.T. ships should take place as soon as they have completed loading. (D.O.D. (H) 1200/5 to C. in C., W.A. F.O.I.C Cardiff)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

MARECHAL JOFFRE. Your 1552/4 and 1622/4 and my 0345/5. Please see my 0313/21. I am still of opinion it would be very much to our disadvantage to provoke French naval forces in Indo China into taking retaliatory action against our shipping in China Sea. Suggest therefore that interception should not take place on China Station. (C.in C. China, 0441Z/5, to Admty.)

CHARLES PLUMIER. Officers and crew of French CHARLES PLUMIER refuse to navigate ship to U.K. Possible that crew might be provided here but this would presumably entail seizing ship and cargo at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1210/5 to Admty.)

Policy re French Merchant Vessels. Request confirmation that following is the policy at present in force regarding French Merchant Vessels. Escorted convoys. The policy of stopping occasional French escorted convoys laid down in Adty. 2327/19/10 has been modified. The interception of these convoys is only to be carried out when ordered vide Adty. 2110/19/11 para.(A). French territorial waters may be infringed. Unescorted ships. All unescorted ships except those about which special instructions have been received, are when encountered by our warships outside territorial waters to have an armed guard on board. Such ships will be diverted to U.K. if possible, otherwise to Gibraltar. When owing to weather or other circumstances it is not possible to place an armed guard on board, ships are if practicable to be escorted to U.K. preferably, otherwise Gibraltar. If French force subsequently disputes possession of ship under British escort she is to be surrendered unless British force present is overwhelmingly superior in which case action is to be taken as Adty. 2327/19/10 para. 4 last sentence but British are not to fire first shot. (F.O.C.N.A. 1224/5 to Admty.)

CUBA
INDO CHINOIS
ANNE DE BRETAGNE

Admty. 2326/11 and my 2033/18/11. Merchant seamen volunteers and men ex CUBA INDO CHINOIS and ANNE DE BRETAGNE have now volunteered to serve with Free French Forces in West Africa to man the French merchant vessels now in Free French Ports including Casamance, Baoule and Adrar. Propose to send these to Duala at first opportunity and not to U.K. (C.in C. S.A., 1617/5 to Admty., amended 1201/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ARGUS, Operation White.

When will report of Board of Enquiry ordered in A.M. 1915/20 reach Admty.? (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0217/5)
Your 0217. Will be despatched in ARGUS, no earlier opportunity. (F.O.C.N.A. 1030/5).

Las Palmas, Germans.

2 German passenger aircraft arrived here 3/12 brought number of Germans. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1625/5).

RENOWN, docking.

My 2128/30. Necessary for ship to be at 24 hours' notice on one shaft to complete refitting of bearing.
RENOWN is now seven months out of dock and requires bottom cleaning, speed being reduced by about one knot.
Ship can be docked without delaying BERWICK 4 days after receipt of Adty. approval.
In view of detachment of SHEFFIELD and as there are no known commitments in immediate future present time seems appropriate to improve steaming capabilities. (S.O. Force H, 1411/5 to Admty.)

Your 1411/5. Approved to prepare dock. Further signal follows. (D.O.D. (F) 2037/5) Cancel my 2037/5. (1 S.L., 0155/6).

ARK ROYAL.

Intend ARK ROYAL and screen proceed to sea A.M./9 for 48 hours for flying training. (S.O. Force H. 1501/5 to Admty.)

SHEFFIELD
Azores Patrol.

SHEFFIELD is to be sailed A.M./5 to carry out Azores Patrol in accordance with A.T. 1615/27/10.
Ship is to be informed of A.T. 1633/1 and V.A.S. 2124/1. (1 S.L. 0014/5 to F.O. Force H).
Gibraltar departure 1500/5 SHEFFIELD in accordance with Admty. 0014/5.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1516/5).

PALMELLA, O.G.46.

Intercepted Message indicates that Spanish S.S. NAVEMAR has picked up 28 survivors of British Ship PALMELLA (OG.46) and expects to arrive Lisbon P.M./10.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2102/5).
PALMELLA said to have sunk after an internal explosion, no time or position given. (D.S. 458.)

RAMILLIES
ECLIPSE
EDINBURGH

RAMILLIES and ECLIPSE are to be sailed for U.K. in company with other ships named. C.in C. H.F. requested to order destination of ECLIPSE. Further instructions will be issued as to destination of RAMILLIES. Anticipated she will be docked on arrival.
EDINBURGH is to proceed forthwith to Scapa without calling at Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F) 2222/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.12.1940. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with Raider.

CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201Z/5 is repeated to you. Have received no earlier report. Have you any information? (C.in C. S.A., 2001/5, to Admty.)

Heading for Montevideo. Request permission be obtained for ship to spend 48 hours in Monte Video to make necessary repairs for seaworthiness. Pending your instructions I am heading for Monte Video. (CARNARVON CASTLE 1413/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Position of Raider. CARNARVON CASTLE was in action with Raider who was last seen at 1400 G.M.T./5 in position 031° 00' South 043° 15' West, Course 040 degs. 19 knots. (Cdre. S.A.D. 1621Z/5, to Admty., C.in C. S.A., and QUEEN OF BERMUDA). Position about 500 miles south of Rio de Janeiro.

R.V. with ENTERPRISE. Your 1201Z/5. R/V with ENTERPRISE in position 033°30' S. 043°25'W. at 1000 G.M.T. /6. (R.A.S.A.D. 1623/5, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Damage. My 0201/5. Casualties are 5 ratings dead, 3 Officers wounded including one seriously; 5 ratings seriously wounded, 24 slightly. CARNARVON CASTLE hit twice on waterline and several holes above waterline. Two compartments flooded and considerable damage elsewhere.
Raider (description). Very similar to ELIA ESSBERGER. (CARNARVON CASTLE, 1740Z/5, to R.A.S.A.D.)

Montevideo arrangements. Following from CARNARVON CASTLE (begins). Requests permission to be obtained for Ship to spend 48 hours in Montevideo to make necessary repairs for sea worthiness (ends). Request you will make necessary arrangements. (C.in C. S.A., 2015/5, to N.A. Buenos Aires).

My 2015/5, proceed to Montevideo. (C.in C. S.A., 2023/5, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

To R.V. ENTERPRISE. Act in accordance with R.A.S.A.Ds' 1629/Z/5. (Re CARNARVON CASTLE to R.V. with ENTERPRISE). (C.in C. S.A., 2335, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

CUMBERLAND. Adjust speed so as to arrive in position 030° S. 040° W. as early as possible consistent with having 50% fuel remaining on arrival there. (R.A.S.A.D., 2301Z/5, to CUMBERLAND).

/ DORSETSHIRE defects. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DORSETSHIRE defects. DORSETSHIRE 1915/2(defective propeller shaft). Examination by divers has not revealed cause. Essential to dock the ship. Arrangements being made to undock ASTURIAS a.m./6 and to dock DORSETSHIRE a.m./8. Time required for DORSETSHIRE in dock uncertain. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 0955H/5).

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. My 1232/3. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE sailing for Freetown). Request route for DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1044/5 to Adty.)

Trawlers. Simonstown arrivals. SOTRA, SVANA, SARNA, SOIKA. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/5, to Admty.)

NORSEMAN. Cable ship, now proceeding 7° 49' S. 34° 42' W. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1349Z/5).

ENGLISH TRADER, damaged. ENGLISH TRADER reports Rudder carried away position 022° 08' N. 021° 20' W. at 0200/5. Suggest ocean going tug from Saint Vincent to assist. Only Warship available at Freetown BRIDGEWATER.
(C.in C. S.A., 1025/5 to Admty. etc.)

Your 1025 M/5. No Ocean going tug available St. Vincent. Have asked Portuguese Authorities here to send Port Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO.
(N.O.I.C. St. Vincent, 1705/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

My 1705/5. Can get no definite reply from Portuguese authorities but consider improbable that they will allow Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO to assist. No other vessel.
(N.O.I.C. St. Vincent, 2250/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

Oiler for Hunting Forces. Oiler LARISTAN originally sent to fuel whalecatcher is being retained at St. Helena during operations of Force L. Though Force L will not be operating after December it is considered very desirable that for the present and whilst policy and operation detailed in Admty. 1917/24/11 and 0036/25/11 are continuing an Oiler shall be kept at St. Helena to provide another fuelling centre for forces that may be in the neighbourhood with particular reference to "D" Class cruisers.
Requested that an R.F.A. Oiler with oiling at sea gear and some aviation spirit as well as fuel be made available to relieve LARISTAN as convenient or alternatively that LARISTAN be retained as long as required. (C.in C. S.A., 1615/5 to Admty.)

/ RESOLUTION ....

MOST SECRET.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

RESOLUTION
VINDICTIVE
FORTUNE

RESOLUTION, VINDICTIVE escorted by FORTUNE proceed at 1000/6 through position (1) 011° 30' N. 020° 00' W. (2) 014° 00' N. 020° 40' W. (3) 029° 00' N. 020° 00' W. (4) 035° 40' N. 007° 40' W. thence to Gibraltar speed of advance 10 knots. (C.in C. S.A. 1621/5.)

ASTURIAS

Delayed at Simonstown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1905/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BULOLO,
CANTON,
KENT,
Convoys.

Your 0143/30/11 BULOLO and CANTON ocean escorts to S.L. 56 and 57 at present on passage have instructions to remain in a lane in the centre of the convoy unless weather conditions render this undesirable when ship is to proceed independently. KENT sails as escort to convoy S.L. 58. Request may be informed of any special orders regarding route and escort, after ocean duties are completed. (C.in C. S.A. 1905/5 to Admty.)

CANTON,
ARAWA,
ALCANTARA,
MORTON BAY
MOOLTAN.

Your 2006/22 and my 2252/29. In view of following forecast of dates when A.M.Cs may resume service, do you still wish CANTON to fit catapult on completion of present duty or would you prefer to defer this work under February? Expected completion Dates for ARAWA, ALCANTARA, MORETON BAY, MOOLTAN. (D.O.D.(F) 2224/5, to C.in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Turkey.

Decided to establish British Naval and Military Missions in Turkey as soon as consent of Turkish Govt. obtained. You will be appointed Head of British Naval Mission when formed. Outline of policy. (1st S.L. 0259/5 to N.A. Ankara for Admiral Kelly). See Mediterranean Vol.

Roumanian Ships.

Reply to N.A. Angora's 1225/28 from Ministry of Shipping. Would welcome any means of getting these vessels out of Black Sea. (D.T.D. 1201/5 to N.A.Angora).

TRUANT.

Operation B.8. Orders for patrol. (Capt: S.1. 1555/5 to TRUANT).

Personnel.

Your 2245/24. Urgency of dilution of personnel. Details. (D.P.S. 1618/5 to C.in C. Med.)

Convoy A.N.9.

Date and route. Escorts. DEFENDER from Port Said, ILEX from Alexandria. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1244/5).

French S/M. Beyrout.

My 0859/2 (1001/2 intended?) Third French S/M has now returned. (Consul Gen, Beyrout to Admty. 1915/5).

Cable Communication.

In view of para.1 and 2 of F.O. Force H's 1629/1 it appears prospects of successfully carrying out this work in winter are slender. Far too heavy a programme of operations in prospect to be able to spare support. (C.in C. Med. 0031/5 to Adty).

830 Squadron Policy.

Your 2327/4.Calling for 1305/23 refered t in 1501/30). Following is a repetition of my 1301/27 which is message referred to in my 1501/30. (begins). V.A.Malta 818 repeated R.A.(A) Med. A.O.C. Med. from C.in C. Med. I should like following policy to govern employment of 830 Squadron. 2. (a) Primary duties should be dusk or night attacks on warships (? or) merchant vessels at sea priority being given to Libyan Convoys passing to West of Malta. (b) Opportunity should be seized to attack shipping concentrations in harbour. (c) Priority should be given to seaches and location of targets suitable for attack, by the squadron before routine patrol or anti-submarine

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

830 Squadron Policy. (Contd.)

duty. 3. Operations on above lines should start now and mining operations against Tripoli as soon as consider practicable. (Ends).
(C.in C. Med. 1015/5 to Adty).

Italian Destroyer Attacked.

Operational Summary No.22. At Mid-day 4/12 30 Squadron provided 2 Blenheims to attack destroyer reported to be shelling Greek Forces (? from) Sarande. Destroyer put to flight at sight of our aircraft by 2 hits one bows one stern.
(B.A.F. Greece 1835/5).

East Indies.

SOUTHAMPTON (joining E. Station.

Request you will sail SOUTHAMPTON to Mombasa with all convenient despatch early a.m./7. Pass Guardafui in darkness and reconnoitre Mogadishu evening 9/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/5, to S.N.O.Red Sea).

GERMANIA.

Your 9033 4/12. There are two tankers GERMANIA. One, a German, last reported at Las Palmas, 1/12 but may have recently sailed for unknown destination. The other a Norwegian has recently changed her name to INDIA. Latter sailed for Bahrein 2/12 for Capetown.
(C.in C. E.I., 0726Z/5, to M.I.C.E.)

U.S.7.

Colombo arrival 0850Z/5 PERTH and CAPETOWN escorting convoy U.S.7.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0936Z/5).

S.W.3.

SHROPSHIRE escorting S.W.3. arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1126Z/5).

U.S.8.

A.M. 0301/29 and 2142/30. Request names of on-carrying transports for (a) Colombo (b) Trincomalee. Suggested dates of arrival.
(C.in C. E.I. 1130/5, to P.S.T.O. India).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

OLE JACOB.

Reporting Officer Kobe reports Norwegian Tanker OLE JACOB arrived 5/12 flying German flag with German prize crew on board. She appears to have full cargo of oil.
(S.O.I. Shanghai, 1103Z/5. to C.in C. China) (Raider distress message from OLE JACOB was received on 10/11 in a position approx. 480' E., of Ceylon).

Kuang Chow Wan Trading Policy.

Governor, Hong Kong's telegram 738 to Colonial Office. As Kuang Chow Wan is under Japanese control, I have treated it in same way as Indo China. If urgently necessary to avoid a shortage of rice at Hong Kong, I have no objection to Kuang Chow Wan being used as an exchange port, provided goods sent there are not challenged export license. I have no doubt Admiral Decoux is anxious to re-establish trade on his conditions but firm basis of my policy is no discrimation against British ships in Indo-China ports.
(C.in C. China, 1407Z/5 to Adty).

America and West Indies.

EUGENA CAMBANI.

British URLA reports she is proceeding to St. John's N.F. with crew of EUGENA CAMBANI. (Greek 3470 tons), which was in Convoy S.C.13 with lumber. Ship is presumed to have foundered on 28/11. (D.O.R. 5/12). My 1733/2. KATHARISTISS BERN HARD and URLA arrived at St. John's N.F. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1640/5 to Adty.)

A.M.C. Escorts.

Admty. 0217/28. Allowing 2 ships refitting 17 A.M.C's would be required for H.X. and B.H.X. Convoys and 3 for S.C.Convoys, total 20.
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1052/5 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

ALAUNIA. — Arrival. ALAUNIA. Departure in accordance with my 1631/3 heavy ocean escort B.H.X.94 returning St. John N.B. (date).
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1043/5, to Adty).

"Town Class" Destroyers. — Halifax 5/12. Departures, RAMSEY, READING, RIPLEY.
(S.O.I. Halifax 1355/5).

BARON YARBOROUGH. — My 2119/3.(Piston broken but proceeding under own steam). BARON YARBOROUGH arrive at St. Johns N.F. 3/12.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1456/5).

PRINCE ROBERT. — In view of increased activity of German ships National Service Headquarters has agreed that you remain on South American Coast for the present. Fuelling arrangements, BISHOPDALE. Immediately after fuelling resume patrol off Callao with minimum possible delay.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1832/5 to PRINCE ROBERT.)

Spanish, Portuguese Ships to U.S.A. — Your 1302/28/11. In accordance with policy of Navicert system, Portuguese and Spanish ships trading with U.S.A. and holding ship Navicerts are exempt from intermediate calls for control unless permitted to carry mails in which case they are required to call at Bermuda where mails are to be landed for examination. Without delaying ships advantage should be taken of such calls to ascertain as far as possible that cargoes agree with manifests and no un-manifested cargo is carried. Passengers in such ships will have been approved by British Authorities at port of departure so need not be examined unless special grounds for suspicion exist.
(D.E.W.D. 2048/5 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

AQUITANIA. — Your 3117/2. AQUITANIA. In time available work has been put in hand to fit additional 400 to 500.
(A.C.N.B. 0332Z/5 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

Suspicious Ships.

WAIPAWA reports following sighted:-
(a) Vessel resembling number 99 WAKAMA in O.U.63 29 (i) with grey hull red funnel black top in position 010° 19' S., 135° 00' W., about 0200Z/6/10 steering South-West. Speed about 12. WAIPAWA at 17 knots attempted close vessel which altered to south. WAIPAWA resumed his course 252 degs. without obtaining further particulars.

(b) In position 027° 10' S., 172° 40'E. at 1400Z/15/11 in bright moonlight a 2 funneled ship steering easterly at high speed.
(A.C.N.B. 1140Z/5 to N.Z.N.B.)

NIMBIN.

British 1052 tons sunk 0530Z/5 in position 033° 15' 30" S., 151° 47' E. Explosion between engine room and number 2 hold. Survivors convinced explosion external. 13 survivors 7 missing.
(A.C.N.B. 1445Z/5).

New Zealand.

AORANGAI.

MONOWAI escorting AORANGI left Auckland for Suva.
(N.Z.N.B. 0610Z/5 to Admty.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS SCHOKE
Captured 2/12)

ENCOUNTER relieves CALIFORNIA p.m/5 Fleet tug ST. DAY position, course and speed 1200/5 036° 50' N., 013° 05' W., 277° 9 knots, proceeding to KLAUS SCHOKE. SHEFFIELD sails 1200/5 to patrol off Azores speed 18 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/5 to CIRCASSIA, DERBYSHIRE)

German ship sunk (CALIFORNIA, 1732/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1732/5 and my 2004/4 and your 1414/2 (WORCESTER and CALIFORNIA to R/V with convoy S.L. 56) My position, course and speed, 037° 45' N., 022° 44' W., 010° altering to 360° on reaching 022° West speed of advance 15 knots at present. Request course and speed of convoy to enable me to overtake if possible or alternatively instructions. Oil remainder 1400 tons. (CALIFORNIA, to F.O.C.N.P. 1828/5)

ENCOUNTER

My position course and speed at 2000/5. (ENCOUNTER, 2110/5)

KLAUS SCHOKE has sunk. Return to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 2007/5 to ENCOUNTER)

SPEZIA

Departure 4/12 SPEZIA for Marseilles. (Valencia, 1345/5)

PORTLAND
OSORNO

Reliable information states that PORTLAND left Coquimbo with GRAF SPEE fugitives on board numbering approx. 20. Also stated that these had crossed the Andes with Arab mule loads of equipment some of military nature. To avoid possible transhipment of above to other German Ships anchored in Talcahuano, Ambassador has requested M.F.A. to hold all German ships in Talacahuano until they have been searched. Naval Authorities are going to do this. Most likely ship to attempt escape is OSORNO which has fuel and also on account of cadets on board ex training ship PRIWALL. (N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1810/5)

RHEIN
IDARWALD

RHEIN, 022° 10' N., 094° 23' W., course and speed 345° 5 knots at 1400 Zone + 5 on 4/12. IDARWALD reported 023° 36' N., 089° 15' W., course & speed 075° 6 knots at 1430 Zone + 5 on 4/12. Consider longitude of ADARWALD should probably be 088° 15' W at above time. Check being obtained. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1811/5, to CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SAGUENAY
(Torpedoed 1/12)

AMSTERDAM proceeded Ramsey, Isle of Man. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0900/5)

SAGUENAY arrived and berthed (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1708/5)

SILVERPINE

(British 5066 tons) Ship of Convoy torpedoed position 054° 14' N., 018° 08' W., (HARVESTER, 0255/5 to C. in C., W.A.) (see S/M's Attacked)

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

S.O.S. received from LOCH RANZA in position 15 miles east of Inishtrahul at 1044. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1124/5)

LOCH RANZA
CONCH
CALEDONIA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 1346/5. My position is 055° 32' N., 008° 02' W., THAMES has LOCH RANZA in tow by stern. Trying to reach shelter in Loch Foyle. Making about one knot in South West gale. THAMES has 25 men from LOCH RANZA on board. 73 survivors from CONCH and CALEDONIA here. After LOCH RANZA has reached shelter propose taking THAMES passengers on board and proceeding Clyde. (ST. LAURENT 1400/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

THAMES (Dutch tug) towing LOCH RANZA reports tow parted and situation critical. LOCH RANZA drifting between Tory Is. and Inishtrahull. Proceed with all despatch to their assistance as soon as weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2035/5 to ENGLISHMAN)

RAJAHSTAN
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Noon position 058° 07' N., 009° 49' W., engine speed 3 knots. Vessel is not steering, if weather conditions continue Tug necessary to assure arrival. (RAJAHSTAN 1400/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Following received from RAJAHSTAN. Correct position 1900 G.M.T. 055° 21' North 008° 24' West. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/5 to Admty)

JEANNE M.
(Torpedoed 2/12)

My 0943/2 Ship sunk was British ship JEANNE M. and not SEABANK SPRAY. Ship was in O.G. 46 and was torpedoed and sunk at 0545 B.S.T./2 in position 039° 19' N., 013° 54' W., Master has arrived at Gibraltar with remainder of survivors. My 1753/5/12 gives list of casualties. Re confidential books and W/T log. (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0255 — Enemy submarine in position 54° 14' N., 18.18 W., at 0255 (C. in C., W.A., 0522/5) (D.T.D., 0600/5)

0403 — 55° N., 19°- 21° W., indefinite position (D.S. 457)

0926 — About 46.30 N., 5° W., indefinite position Italian Submarine (D.S. 457) (V.A.S. 1053/5)

1949 — D.F., probable U-Boat 43°-44° N., 9°-10° W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2036/5)

1650 — 52°-54° N., W. of 18° W., indefinite position (D.S. 458)

2107
2217 — 48°- 48.30 N., 8° - 8.30 W., Indefinite Position (D.S. 458)

2352 — Off coast of Portugal (Italian) Indefinite position (D.S. 458)

0001 — Master of KYLOE reports that at midnight of the 4th, 10 miles N.W. of Smalls saw a vessel right ahead both starboarded and switched-on lights. At that moment sighted submarine under his bows on surface following wake of other vessel. Submarine then crossed KYLOE's wake and disappeared in a Squall. No explosions heard. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1638/5)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- One slower than estimated entering Gironde today or tonight.
1 off Cape Spartel at 2145/3 outward bound
1 in vicinity of 60° N., 10° W., on the 3rd possibly still patrolling.
1 or probably two more in N.W. Approaches probably North of 55 N., and West of 20 W.

German- 1 arriving Lorient after midnight.
1 in vicinity of Porcupine Bank outward bound.
1 in 54. 14 N., 18.08 W., at 0255/5.
1 about 55 N., 20 W at 0403/5.
1 or probably 2 in area 55 N-57 N., 10 W-15 W.
1 in area 56 N- 58 N., 15 W - 19 W.
1 about 100-150 miles Northwards of Rockall.
1 probably patrolling North of 61 N., East of 20 W.
(D.D.I.C. 1359/5)

MOST SECRET

5.12.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Submarines Attacked

KASHMIR, KIPLING, JUPITER and PUNJABI arrived Plymouth 1158/4 and left 1619/4 (for attack on U-Boat) (C. in C., W.A., 0152/5)

0255 My 0255/5 (Ship of convoy torpedoed) Made good attack 14 charge pattern on U-Boat shortly after SILVERPINE sunk. Convoy was widely separated contact not yet regained. An searching. 9 British 10 Chinamen picked up at daylight. Weather. (HARVESTER, 1145/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

1310 Obtained A/S contact in position 284° Cape Wrath 53. Contact not regained. Rough sea (KINGSTON ONYX 1310/5 to S.O. Trawlers, NorthernPatrol)

My 1310 Regained anti-submarine contact. Fired further charges circling position. No further gain obtained. No wreckage seen. (KINGSTON ONYX, 1410/5)

Your 1310. Submerged wreck is in position 287° Cape Wrath 51 miles. (A.C.O.S. 1533/5 to KINGSTON ONYX)

Northern Patrol trawler KINGSTON ONYX attacked contact probably non-submarine in position 58.50 N., 6.40 W., at 1310. (A.C.O.S. 1709/5)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Channel Striking Force.

German destroyers operating from Brest have proved themselves faster than the destroyers of the 5th D.F. It is for consideration that in view of their extra speed, the 6th D.F. should change places with the 5th D.F. as the Channel striking force. Request your remarks.
(1st S.L. 1810/6 to C.in C. H.F.)

Town Class Destroyers.

With the exception of the four ships allocated to R.A.M.L., all Town Class Destroyers will join the command of C.in C. W.A. when ready for service.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2326/6).

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE.

At 1130/6. (D.C.1201/6). At 2330/6. (D.C.2355/6).

Milford Haven Balloon Defence.

My 1136/3. Understood Air Ministry object to balloons being flown on eastern part of convoy anchorage. Case for balloons (details).

Milford Haven is the convoy assembly port for Bristol Channel and ports in Western English Channel, one of the principal areas remaining open to shipping.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1222/6.)

Movements.

KASHMIR
JUPITER
KIPLING
PUNJABI.

Arrived Plymouth 1345/5.
(C.in C. W.A. 0012/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

ICARUS. — Your 1801/5 arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0858/6). Intend sailing ICARUS for Immingham tonight E.T.D.1700 E.T.A. N. Goodwin 2359 please signal further instructions. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1143/6). To be sailed to pass N.Goodwin at 0815/7. Route. Speed. Fighter cover will be arranged Code word Alpha. (C.in C. Nore 1302/6), (C.in C. Portsmouth 1623/6).

RODNEY. — Expect escort by Sunderland aircraft from about 1200 until 1500. (C.in C. Rosyth 0916/6 to RODNEY).

EDINBURGH. SHEFFIELD. TROUBADOUR. — Adty. 2222/5. EDINBURGH. (Left Freetown 1600/30/11) Route to Scapa. (C.in C. W.A. 1234/6) Informing Western Patrol of movements of EDINBURGH and SHEFFIELD. (F.O.C.N.P. 1130/6). See URGE (Submarines).

RAMILLIES, FURIOUS, ARGUS, CALIFORNIA, FRANCONIA. — Your 2222/5. Re destroyer escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1255/6) (See Operations Volume). C.in C. W.A. 1255/6 and Adty. 1734/6. Request you will sail 2 destroyer for this duty. (C.in C. H.F. 2006/6 to R.A.D.)

BRIDPORT. — My 1204/5. Sailing delayed 24 hours due to stress of weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1110/6).

MORETON BAY. — F.O.C.N.P. 1646/3. Route to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1355/6).

RAMILLIES. — After arrival at Clyde to sail to Portsmouth for docking and leave. To be ready to sail (date). (D.O.D.(H) 1719/6).

DUNOTTAR CASTLE. CILICIA. — DUNOTTAR CASTLE from Belfast is to sail 8/12 escorted by two destroyers of 10th or 11th Escort Groups to be detailed by D.12. CILICIA from Clyde can be included in convoy if this is early enough. (C.in C. W.A. 1512/6).

Rosyth. — Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth 1518/6).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler line occupied tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1524/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Your 2222/5. Consider that at least seven destroyers are required to screen RAMILLIES, FURIOUS* ARGUS, CALIFORNIA, and FRANCONIA.

2. Anticipate that only two can be provided from W.A. Command for the additional escort. Request two more destroyers may be detailed. Estimate that R.V. will be in about 55° N., 22° W. at 1000 B.S.T./11.
(C.in C. W.A. 1255/6, to Adty).

Operations.

ARGUS is required to transport 12 Swordfish 3 Blenheims and maintenance party to Gibraltar sailing in Convoy W.S.5.A. on 18/12.

3. F.O.Force H is requested to arrange to transfer by air or other method 6 Swordfish and Fulmars to ARK ROYAL the 6 reserve Swordfish to be landed subsequently at Gibraltar.

4. ARGUS will subsequently return to U.K. with any U/S aircraft ex Gibraltar. Maintenance party is to return in ARGUS.
(D.N.A.D. 2252/6).

Operation Monsoon.

My 1852/5. FURIOUS will not now sail until (date).
(D.O.D.(H) 2325/6 to Air Ministry).

Submarines.

UNBEATEN for landing training of Marines.

My 1731/5. As it is now desired to use UNBEATEN in Clyde area for urgent landing training of Marines UNBEATEN is to remain at Holy Loch until this training is completed or until URGE has worked up sufficiently to take over this duty. If URGE is eventually required she is to join 9th submarine flotilla on completion.
(V.A.S. OC16/6 to S.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Western Channel. — Night report (C. in C. W.A. 1556/6, 2102/6).

Orkneys. — Position 2000/6 (A.C.O.S. 1558/6).

FORMIDABLE. — My 1815/3. Work delayed by gale. Expect to sail 0800/9. E.T.A.Greenock 1600/9. (FORMIDABLE 1712/6) Please rearrange escorts as necessary. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1739/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

M.T.Ships. — Adty. 1200/5. Report as early as possible to F.O.I.C. Glasgow and F.O.I.C. Greenock E.T.A. Greenock of the M.T.Ships allocated to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1757/6 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

Operations.

Patrol South of Convoy Route. — My 1427/5 has nothing to report. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1107/6).

A.P.Patrols. — Ref. my 0920/6. Patrols not covered tonight unless weather moderates. (S.O.A.P. Harwich. 1606/6).

ARGUS. — To sail in Convoy WS5(A) (date) Reason. (D.N.A.D. 2252/6 2253/6). See Operations Volume.

Operation "MONSOON". — My 1852/5. Revised sailing date for FURIOUS (D.O.D.(H) 2325/6 to Air Min.) (See Operations Volume.)

Submarines.

UNBEATEN URGE. — My 1731/3. Re use for an operation. (V.A.20018/6). See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

URGE.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/5. Cancel my 1316/5. TROUBADOUR is to escort URGE. (C.in C. W.A. 1236/6).

Positions and movements.

1800/7 (V.A.S. 1653/6).

SEALION attack on tanker 25/11.

SEALION reports only one aircraft seen. At 1111/25/11 carried out unsuccessful snap attack on large northbound tanker in approx. 61° N., 4° 10' E., in heavy weather (V.A.S.1907/6).

British Air Activity.

Lorient to be attacked.

AP6 40 6/12. Available aircraft Nos. 53 and 59 Sqns. to attack tonight submarines and docks Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1316/6).

Training of 816 and 825 Squadrons.

Request your remarks on Adty. 0012/4 to C.in C. H.F. and A.C.O.S. and C.in C. H.F's reply 1539/5 * which are being passed to you. (5th S.L. 1355/6 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Brest to be Attacked.

AP/641 6/12. Repeat tonight attack with Tims on Power Station and Naval Dockyard at Brest with available Aircraft of No. 217 Sqdn. (H.Q.C.C. 1419/6).

Reconnaissance of Kiel Ordered.

As soon as weather conditions are suitable one A/C 235 Sqdn. is to carry out a photographic r/c of the shipping at Kiel in following priority:- (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1440/6).

Re S/L's.

217 6/12. Your A.951 5/12. Object of keeping searchlights doused under certain conditions is, etc. Orders can be issued for appropriate searchlights to comply with request if these factors are appreciated and possible risk of inviting air attack is accepted. Request your decision. (H.Q.F.C. 1530/6 to Air Min.)

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Defence of Scapa.

X 179 6/12. Admiralty anticipate air attack on Fleet now at Scapa as reprisal for Taranto. C.in C. Home Fleet and Admiralty consider that Orkney defences should be brought up to three Hurricane Squadrons in addition to 232 Flight and the F.A.A.Fighter Sqdn. Consider and report proposed action on this request.
(Air Min. 1555/6 to F.C.)

A.11 6/12. Your X.179 6/12. Three Hurricane Squadrons will be available in Kirkwall Sector and 232 Flight Adjacent if required. Request authority to increase 232 Flight to full Squadron.
(H.Q.F.C. 2300/6 to Air Min).

Reconnaissance Spartel to 40 W.

X.7437.A.295 6/12. Surface R/C area covered Spartel to four degrees west.
(200 Group 1720/6).

Air Escorts 7/12.

(C.in C. Rosyth 1924/6).

Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on Portsmouth 5/12.

My 2200/5. Clarence Yard fire now out. Damage not so serious as anticipated.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0723/6).

Report from Sheerness.

Following received from X D O Sheerness = Control Station 26 reported hearing low flying plane and at 1847 observed 1 way galve Swings on guard loop and M1 and M2 all occurring practically simultaneously. 2010/5/12.
(C.in C. Nore 1051/6).

Convoy F.S.

Enemy aircraft attacking F.S.Convoy. 52° 3'N., 1° 46'E.
(VORTIGERN 1123/6).

My 1123. One Dornier. 17 dropped bombs; hurried Eastwards and returned to shadow height.
(VORTIGERN 1133/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

CAMERON. (attack on Portsmouth 5/12.

A Number of men in CAMERON owe their lives to having their torches close to hand as all lights went out and ship fell over on her side on bomb exploding. It is for consideration that this point should be brought generally to notice. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/6).

My 2200/5 fire in CAMERON is now out. Ship turned over on side and probably a total loss. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1448/6).

Portsmouth attack 6/12.

Air Raid on Portsmouth 1940/2000. Dockyard damage not great. Victualling Yard slight damage. DOLPHIN very slight damage. No casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2338/6).

CRAIGMILLER (Damaged 19/11).

Sheerness 1600/6. Departure H.M.T. CRAIGMILLER for Southend for onward routeing to Lowestoft. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1601/6).

Dover attached.

Enemy aircraft dropped a stick of bombs in Dover Harbour at 1656/6. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A.Dover 1644/6).

KILGERRAN CASTLE. (Bombed 2/12).

Has since sunk. (D.S.458).

Flares dropped by enemy aircraft.

Reply to C.in C. H.F. 1913/5. (D.T.S.D.2011/6).

Berthing of Vessels.

It is considered likely that the Germans may launch attacks by torpedo carrying aircraft on an increased scale. This should be considered when berthing vessels. (D.D.I.C. 2324/6 to C's in C at home).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.Q.2.

My 1348/4. Operation postponed for 24 hours due to weather.
(C.in C. W.A. 0710/6 to ADVENTURE KASHMIR KIPLING PUNJABI JUPITER.

Mines detonated Sheerness.

Group Officer in CAPRICORNUS reports
(a) At 2020/5 one mine detonated by LL 220° Knob L.V. three cables.

(b) at 2345/5 one mine detonated by S.A gear 234° Knob L.V. 1 mile bearing ahead two cables.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 0925/6).

Dover.

No routine sweeping to 0800/6 in Q.Z.X.247 exploratory sweep between south west Gate and Sandhead Buoys. Four sweeps cut by explosive cutters. One mine found 160° South Foreland 2.3 miles.
(V.A.Dover 1207/6).

Request following may be broadcast:- Port of Falmouth open for steam propelled vessels only. Diesel engined ships should not repeat not be routed to Falmouth except by special arrangements with N.C.S.O. Instructions for approaching.
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth 1304/6).

Operation J.H.

Your 1149/2. Weather and moon unfavourable. Do not intend to repeat operation.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1537/6 to Adty).

Milford Haven.

Seven mines (ground) self detonated. Positions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1817/6).

Plymouth.

Since my 1823/4 two mines detonated spontaneously one at 1848 on approx. bearing 220 degs. Breakwater Fort and eastward of Penlee Point and one between Shagstone and Newstone.
(C.in C. W.A. 1825/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface unit off Naze.

By D/F at 0954/6 unknown enemy surface unit, probably destroyer or larger unit was near The Naze. Unreliable fix. (B.D.I.C. 1031/6).

Units in Bay of Biscay ports.

Summary of reconnaissance of enemy naval units in Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, Gironde.
(V.A.S. 1711/6 to S/M's Area B).

Miscellaneous.

Reports when ships are laid up.

A.M.0123/5. Request confirmation that reports are required to cover all ships and vessels including A.P.Vessels M.T.B's etc.
(C.in C. Nore 1429/6 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ENGLISH TRADER (3953 tons).

Ex Convoy O.B.245, rudder caried away, about 450 miles S.W. of Canary Is. See South Atlantic.

BRITISH PRINCE.

Ex Convoy HX91. In distress 550 miles West of Hebrides. (D.O.R.)

S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER. made S.O.S. 2343/5).

Intercept at 2321 S.O.S. bad fading message unread. Believe call sign begins with G.N.? Immediate assistance required, no further particulars. (North Foreland Radio 0048/6).

Following received. S.O.S. S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER main engine disabled strong west gale require immediate assistance. 59° o'N., 14° 40'W. 2343/5 G.M.T. (North Foreland Radio 0054/6).

Proceed with all despatch. (S.O.N.T. 0135/6 to KINGSTON ONYX). Proceed with all despatch to position 59° 09'N., 14° 40' W. to assist S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER. (S.O.N.T. 0740/6 to NORTHERN SUN).

Sail ST. OLAVES to assist EMPIRE THUNDER disabled position at 2340 was 59° 09'N., 14° 40'W. (A.C.O.S. 1406/6 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall).

It is possible you may find EMPIRE THUNDER already in tow. If so report immediately in order that tug may be recalled. (A.C.O.S. 1949/6 to KINGSTON ONYX.)

S.S. BECHEVILLE. (4228 tons).

S.O.S. BECHEVILLE off Skerry Vore both anchors gone require immediate assistance. (Lyness W/T 010/6)

CQ V.GPK. S.O.S. BECHEVILLE QUM. T.O.R. 0522 Ends. (Scapa W/T 0545/6).

Following received from Cdre. E.N. 35:- In S.S. BECHEVILLE, cruising in Lee of Colonsay having affected temporary repairs to engines, lost both anchors, Captain intends proceed Clyde when weather moderates. T.O.O. 1713/6 (N.C.S.O. Oban 2230/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. SERINGA. — Distress signal at 0306/6 in 57° 52'N., 23° 56'W. Requires assistance. (C.in C. W.A. 2350/11).

S.S. MARY N. — From MARY N. Strong gale broke left lifeboat other parts missed sea water is rushing inside in the engine room. (Valentia Radio 0249/6).

S.S. NYLAND. (Swedish 3378 tons). — S.O.S. ground West rock ship breaking. (NYLAND T.O.R. 0750/6).

S.S. HOPESTAR. (5267 tons). — HOPESTAR ashore Bally Macormack point near Bangor Bay Belfast Lough require immediate assistance. (Lyness W/T 0756/5, HOPESTAR 0817/6).

HOPESTAR. ACCOMAC. — British HOPESTAR driven ashore Ballyholme Bay Belfast Lough tugs unable to approach until weather moderates. No immediate danger. British ACCOMAC also ashore and after boiler explosion apparently total loss. No casualties, crew landed. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1832/6).

N.C. S.S. ICELAND. — Following received from Wick Radio:- From S.S. ICELAND Begins Naval Control Steamer ICELAND required two tugs been badly damaged by other steamer no steering gear Ends. Endeavouring communicate with vessel. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0835/6).

S.S. QUINEAN (5205 tons). — Driving lee shore Turnberry Point. Require assistance. (S.S. QUINEAN via lands End Radio 0845/6 Port patrick Radio. No T.O.O. or T.O.R.)

Driving ashore turnberry Point Firth of Clyde. Ship unmanageable. Heavy gale. (QUINEAN via Port patrick Radio No T.O.O.)

Following has been read Cleethorpes W/T. Situation bettering do not consider vessel in danger, master 1217/6 G.M.T. (QUINEAN T.O.R. 1331/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. TAYGETOS (Greek 4295 tons) (made S.O.S. 5/12).

Following has been read:-
317° Gonio B. de TAYGETOS rudder smashed lifeboats swept away require immediate assistance to abandon ship no position.
(Lands End Radio 0910/6).

S.S. ADAMAS. (Greek 4144 tons).

Position 10 miles NW Tory Island. Damaged number one hold, lifeboats and steering gear. Require assistance. (S.S. ADAMAS via Malin Head Radio 0915/6 via Lyness Radio 0921/6).

? MARICHANDIS.

Following has been read from ?SVYE MARICHANDIS. S.O.S. Out of Control drifting towards land bearing from A GPK 297.
(Port Patrick Radio 0944/6).

S.S. STOLWYK. (Dutch 2489 tons).

S.O.S. Three miles from Tory Island 25° true lost rudder.
(STOLWYK 0754/6).

S.O.S. STOLWYK fear to run against rocks near Tory Island very soon want assistance.
(Port Patrick 1120/6).

S.S. CITY OF OXFORD. (2759 Tons.)

CITY OF OXFORD, unmanageable drifting close to land, bearing from Malin Head Radio 017°.
(Malin Head Radio 1027/6).

TABARISTAN. (625? tons).

The following has been received. From TABARISTAN steering gear carried away position approx. 55.47 N., 7.20 W. Require immediate assistance.
(Port Patrick Radio 1122/6).

M/S Tr. RAYMONT. TORNADO.

Harwich departure Tug NORMAN at 1125/6 to assistance of M/S Trawlers RAYMONT and TORNADO near Sunk L.V.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1127/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

M/S. Trs. RAYMONT, TORNADO. (Contd.)

Harwich 6/12 arrivals Rescue tug ST. MELLONS towing TORNADO at 1730 Rescue Tug NORMAN towing RAYMONT at 1703. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1744/6).

AGHIA, EIRINI. (made S.O.S. 5/12).

Have 29 men on board (Valentia Radio 1159/6) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/6 to ESPERANCE BAY, CATHAY).

My 1200. Position of AGHIA EIRINI now reported as 052° 19'N., 022° 25'W. At 1244 unreliable D/F of enemy S/M between 052° and 053° N., probably West of 020° W. Do not remain in the vicinity of AGHIA EIRINI to search for her. (A.C.W.A. 1422/6 to CATHAY, ESPERANCE BAY).

Your 1410 6th. Cancel my 1200 6th. Do not close position of AGHIRA EIRINI. (C.in C. W.A. 1738/6 to ESPERANCE BAY, CATHAY).

SAINT CROIX NIAGARA and SAINT CLARE may investigate and assist AGHIRA EIRINI reported in distress in 52° 19'N., 22° 25 miles W. (C.in C. W.A. 1900/6 to Adty).

S.S. AGHIRA EIRINI reported in distress in position 52° 19'N., 22° 25' W, at 1800Z/6. S.O. of ships addressed is to take ships addressed under his orders, investigate and render any possible assistance reporting to C.in C. W.A. who will issue any further instructions. (D.O.D.(H) 2039/6 to ST. CROIX, NIAGARA, ST. CLARE.).

NEURALIA.

SIAVOL collided with NEURALIA in gale last night. NEURALIA cut from upper deck to waterline and required immediate docking. Please inform D. of S.T. if she can be repaired in time to catch convoy. (P.S.T.O.Clyde 1239/6 to S.I.O. Glasgow.)

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. LLANGIBBY CASTLE.

Following received in M.N.C.R. from Lands End M Radio at 1945. 54° 34'N., 22° 31'W. D.C. disabled doubt whether able to repair. Request instructions. (LLANGIBBY CASTLE 1305/6).

BLYSKAWICA.

Lost contact with Clyde section. Steering gear damaged. Compelled to return to Clyde. My noon position approx. 056° N., 008° 30'W. Wind W.N.W. force 10 sea 88 visibility 5 miles. (BLYSKAWICA 1308/6).

FOREMOST 18.

Great Yarmouth departure tug KROOMAN to assistance of S.S. FOREMOST 18.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1321/6).

FOREMOST 18 is riding to sea anchor position 2 M.S. 50° E., 6 buoy. KROOMAN will endeavour to take her in tow. FOREMOST has run out of fuel steering gear broken down.
(F.O.I.C.Yarmouth 2138/6).

HURRICANE.

My approx. p.c. and s. 056° 07'N., 022° 40'W. 290° 3 knots hove to. following are no further use after prolonged gale. Both dynamos, gyro-compass, all guns, A/S set, cooling circuit and all boats. 50% of guard rails missing. Can steer by main engines. Forecastle deck slightly stove in. Gale continues no barometer wind W.N.W. 10 sea 87. When possible intend returning at best speed. Touch lost with HESPERUS when steering by main engines at 1020/6.
(HURRICANE 1331/6).

When weather conditions permit close HURRICANE (p.c.s.) to Liverpool if necessary.
(C.in C. W.A. 1930/6 to HESPERUS).

Your 1930/6. HESPERUS in company. Both Dynamos and steering gear repaired. Can make Liverpool without escort.
(HURRICANE 2114/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)
Following has been read:-

S.S. MOUSSE LE MOYEC. (French 2038 tons).

MOUSSE LE MOYEC 5 miles S.W. Hartland Point drifting Lee Shore want immediate assistance. Cleethorpes W/T (T.O.R.1332) (Burnham on Sea Radio. Recd. 1229 G.M.T.)

MOUSSE LE MOYEC ashore off Hartland Point requires immediate assistance. (Lyness 1415/6).

The following has been read.
Cancel distress re GMPM (MOUSSE LE MOYEC) 1414/6 de GKU. T.O.R. 1535/6.
(Lands End Radio Rec. 1545/6).

S.S. RUDLOE.

RUDLOE. Received 1313 G.M.T. de GMPM. Ashore on Hartland Point require assistance.
(Burnham on Sea Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1432/6).

UNBEATEN.

M/S UNBEATEN broke adrift from H.M.S. TITANIA at 0700/6 during gale of hurricane force and after collision with merchant vessel went aground. Apparent damage from collision slight. Hope to refloat her at 1700. N.O.I.C. Greenock has been asked to provide tugs but boat work in Holy Lock is at present impossible.
(Capt: (S) 1531/6).

Captain (S) 3's 1531/6 is passed to you for information.
(V.A.S. 1921/6 to Adty).

Unknown M/V.

Intercept at 1640 G.M.T. DE G.M.H. Please keep lookout for unknown merchant vessel which is reported to be out of control and drifting 10 miles N.N.W. Malin Head at 1555 G.M.T.
(Port Patrick Radio 1642/6).

YOUNG FISHERMAN.

Drifter YOUNG FISHERMAN (engagement 6) grounded alongside railway pier Oban on 28/11 since capsized and become total loss a.m. today.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1655/6).

S.S. GORSETHORNE.

Disabled and requires immediate assistance 5337 North 0344 West.
(T.O.R. 1656/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

ORCHIS
TULIP
HOLLYHOCK
CAPE MARIATO.

Bar heavy gale this morning ORCHIS aground at 0700 and is still ashore. Hope to tow her off tomorrow high water. TULIP dragged collided HOLLYHOCK slightly damaged TULIP considerably damaged upper works of HOLLYHOCK. TULIP grounded 0828 since refloated slight damage CAPE MARIATO dragged and grounded now refloated no damage apparent.
(Cdre. WESTERN ISLES 1741/6).

FAIRPLAY. I.

Your 1430/6/12. Tug FAIRPLAY I is sheltering in Coldingham Bay near St. Abbs Head. One barge has sunk approx. 3 miles 090° from Eyemouth. The other is afloat in the same position moored to the sunken barge by the towing span and will be recovered a.m. 7/12 if weather moderates sufficiently.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1809/6 to N.C.S.O. Middlesboro.)

S.S. BARON CARNEGIE.

Following received from S.S. BARON CARNEGIE anchored Loch Indial, Islay awaiting weather moderating. P/V. damaged. T.O.O. 1412/6. Ship left Oban in O.B.254 at 0130/5 for St.John N.B. in ballast.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1815/6).

Assistance to Ships in distress.

As soon as conditions permit every endeavour should be made to assist to nearest place of safety the ships in difficulties due to present severe weather. If necessary search by Tugs for ships recently damaged by enemy action should be postponed.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1842/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Unknown.

From unknown station begins. Ship inside Inishdary Island breaking rapidly.
(Burnham on Sea Radio T.O.R. 1843).

NAIAD
DIDO.

On return of BONAVENTURE intend to sail NAIAD to Rosyth for repairs as in my 1536/20/11. Work will occupy about three weeks intend ship should give leave. Propose refit be carried out concurrently with above special items. On return of PHOEBE propose DIDO be taken in hand for stiffening and other work generally as in PHOEBE. Request repair Yard for DIDO be allocated.
(C.in C. H.F. 2226/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

CHEVREUIL.

Previous instructions cancelled. When weather permits proceed with all despatch to assist F.O. CHEVREUIL reported drifting west at 3 knots with engine disabled in position 56° 21'N., 9° 21'W., at 1045. Report when you proceed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2315/6 to tug ENGLISHMAN).

My 1040/6. Cancel. Am anchoring Rothesay. Engines now completely useless also W/T request tug to proceed to Greenock 7/12.
CHEVREUIL 2100/6).

BELMONT.

Have following defects beyond capacity of ships staff to repair. Am proceeding to Milford Haven E.T.A. 0900/7.
(BELMONT 2315/6).

MOST SECRET.
6.12.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

S.L. 56. Estimated positions 0900/6 (D.T.D. 1333/6 to C. in C. H.F.).
When weather permits proceed to meet S.L. 56. Route. (C. in C. W.A. to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICAN 1126/6)

M.N.51. Code "Material". Escorts unappropriate (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1206/6)

O.B. 257 Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1240/6)

E.N. 37. H.M.T's NORTHERN PRIDE, LADY ELSA, WOLVES. Additional escort GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1950/6) (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/6) Route (R.A.D.H.F. to CURACOA, 1948/6).

C.O.47. Date and route.(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2200/6)

F.N. 50. Arrived with LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/6)

F.N. 53. Sails 0800. Corvette escort SHEARWATER (C in C. Nore 2/00/6). Will probably exceed 60 ships. Hunt class destroyer to form additional escort under orders of EGRET. (C in C. Nore 2116/6).

S.C.15. Route (D.T.D. 1812/6 to CILICIA)

F.S. 54 QUORN as additional escort to SHEERNESS (C in C. Rosyth 1731/6).

S.C. 13. Only ship seen was MARCREST hove to Not seen CITY OF OXFORD or LOCH RANSA. (WELLINGTON 1840/6).

O.B. 255 Delayed 24 hours (VETERAN to CAMELLIA, ROTHESAY, 1615/6)

H.X. 91 Important Cargoes. Additional escort if possible (D.T.D. 1253/6 to C.inC. W.

F.N.F.S. Forecast of sailings (C. in C. Rosyth 1019/6).

S.L. 56. My 1414/2 WORCESTERSHIRE is not to join S.L. 56 Proceed Clyde (route). (F.O.C.N.P., 1610/6).

Your 1126/6. Am shortly fuelling for meeting and escorting SL.56 convoy from 8/12. My approx. p, c and s 054°30' N 020° 30'W 340 degrees. 3. Intend to proceed to Lough Foyle when weather permits, to refued.HARVESTER 2107/6 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.L. 57 / S.L.S.57 Route (F.O.C.N.P. to Western Patrol 1434/6)

/S.L.58.....

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys contd.
S.L.58.

KENT is to act as ocean escort to convoy SL 58 routed in accordance 1944/30/11 and N.C.S.O. Memo. Admiralty requested to issue instructions when KENT is to leave convoy and route to port selected. My 1905/5 refers. (C. in C. S.A. 1317/6 to KENT).

W.N. 49

CURACOA left Scapa for convoy W.N. 49. (A.C.O.S. 1409/6)

Part company from Oban portion of W.N. 49 at 0800/7 and proceed to meet Clyde portion estimated off Rattray Head at 0800. C in C. Rosyth 1855/6 to JASON)

W.N. 50.

Retard sailing 25 hours weather (N.C.S.O Greenock 1032/6) My 1025/5. Amend third sentence to read 'on passing Dunnet Head GLEANER proceed to Scapa'. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail GLEANER as necessary to meet W N 50 due Cape Wrath 0700/9 and Duncansby 1700/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 2355/6 to GLEANER A.C.O.S.)

7 M.V.b.
(named)

Your 1200/5 as only trawlers could be provided as escort intend ships should be sailed independently so as to make the best use of their speed. Fighter cover being provided. (C. in C. W.A. 1522/6 to Admty)

Not met 5854 N 1630 W. Weather (WALKER 1601/6).

Not met. Will be in position 058° 35N 012° 00'W at 1000/7 WESTCOTT in company P F X one stated convoy dispersed in gale yesterday 59° 04' N 16° 17' W. Weather. (VANSITTART 1800/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X. 94

Departure 6/12 COMORIN to Bermuda RAJPUTANA TRILLIUM, WINDFLOWER, ocean escort, ASSINIBOINE local escort H.X. 94. (S.C.L. Halifax 1817/6)

SATURNUS

Your 1844/5. Admiralty routeing message quoted must not be passed to Swedish ship SATURNUS in plain language. If ship has ship navicert she will be allowed through patrols. (D.N.W.D. 1649/6 to N.C.S.O. New York)

Troop Convoys.
N.S.S.A.

Sailing date and details. Ocean escort FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK and DIDO class (D.O.D. (H) 2250/6 to C.'s in C. W.A. Nore, Portsmouth, H.F. etc).

T.C. 8.

Instructions for Ocean escort REVENGE (D.O.D. (F) 2240/6 amended 1143/7)

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy Attack.
U/B Tactics.

From reports received from Commodores of convoys it appears that some Masters of ships in Convoy are not aware of the tactis of U-boats now operating in the Atlantic.

2. Daylight attacks by submerged U-boats on ships in convoy under escort are very rare, except on ships sailing independently or straggling from convoy.

3. U-boats are attacking convoys at nights and on the surface.

4. To counter these tactics. (Procedure)

5. Experience has shown that ships breaking out of convoy after attack at night are frequently sunk. Thus it is most important that convoy should maintain its formation after attack. To reduce the dangers of a salvo of torpedoes sinking several ships in convoy columns have recently been opened to five cables apart.

6. Ships must not hesitate to open fire on any U-boat sighted if range is clear The temptation to withhold fire in the hopes of a subsequent easier shot must be resisted. The opportunity may never recur.

7. All the above points are to be emphasised and explained at Convoy Conferences.
(D.A/S. W. 1919/6 to N.C.S.O. 5.).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Ships at Casablanca.

Reported at Casablanca 3/12, JEAN BART, GLOIRE, PRIMAGUET left with three t.b's 30/11, MILAN and EPERVIER. Three t.b's. S/M's CASABLANCA, MEDUSE and two others of MEDUSE class. AUSTRAL and twelve other small patrol craft. Transports MOGADOR arrived 29/11 and sailed with troops HOGGAR 29/11 sailed with troops for Dakar VILLE DE MAJUNGA due to sail with troops believed Indo-China CONDE and ESTEREL 29/11 sailed with troops VILLE DE VERDUN arrived 1/12 with aviators and sailors. Ships in port GUYANE, ZAZPIAKBAT, ATLANTA, ESPIGUETTE FORT RICHEPAUSE, SAINT LOUIS, MARGUERITE FINALY, VILLE D'ALGER, BAMAKCO, SAN PEDRO, ASIE, BRESTOIS, ARICA, PIERRE L.D. and EDEA sailed 29/11 EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER arrived 2/12 with passengers. In port British ship PENCREED Italian ship SAINT PIERRE Danish ELSE Norwegian RINGULV another Norwegian, Norwegian JASPIS Spanish SAC.F. two small tankers SURVIT and VICTORIA, two small Cherifien ships. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1453/6).

WYOMING
OREGON
SAN FRANCISCO

French merchant ships WYOMING and OREGON with a small number of French subjects on board will be ready to leave Liverpool about 9/12 and 15/12 respectively. They should be sailed and routed in accordance with my 1913/28/10. Further signal will be made with reference to SAN FRANCISCO, who will be ready to sail about the end of December. (D.O.D.(H) 1651/6 to C.in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

CHARLES PLUMIER.

Your 1210/5. Ship and cargo should not be seized in prize at Gibraltar but should be sent to U.K. as soon as possible. Report if crew cannot be raised locally. French officers and crew should be asked individually whether they wish to join De Gaulle and those unwilling should be repatriated to Casablanca in French ship VICTORIA, if still available. (Head of M. 2013/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Seamen.

Your 1210/5 and my 2013/6. French seamen willing to join de Gaulle should be invited to sign following declaration. Men signing Declaration will receive any arrears of wages back to 8th May on French scale and will be paid in N.M.B. rates from the date of signing Declaration. (Head of M. 2014/6, to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH. Admty. 2222/5. Proceed in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1015 N/30/11 through position 2. C.in C. W.A. requested to amend route if desired. (F.O.C.N.A. 0140/6, to EDINBURGH).

RENOWN. Operation "Ration". Cancel my 2037/5. As it will probably be decided to carry out operation "RATION" in the near future, docking of RENOWN must be postponed. (1st S.L. 0156/6 to S.O. Force H).

My 1411/5. Y shaft of RENOWN will be out of action from 0800/7 until 1200/8. (S.O. Force H., 11006,to Admty.)

My 0155/6. H.M.G. have decided that operation "RATION" is to be put into effect as soon as necessary forces are available. One convoy to be intercepted and a report made, when further instructions will be given. (D.O.D.(F) 1645/6, to F.O.C.N.A.)

TRIUMPH. Leave patrol after dark today and return to Gibraltar. FAULKNOR will meet you (position) during daylight 7/12 and provide escort. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102/6, to TRIUMPH amended 1740/6).

MANCHESTER. Gibraltar arrival 1100/6 C.S.18 in MANCHESTER. (S.O.I., Gib., 1246/6).

MANCHESTER will be at 8 hours notice for steam for 24 hours from 0600/7 to repair brickwork. (S.O. Force H 1634/6).

FURIOUS Admty. 2222/5. RAMILLIES ARGUS FRANCONIA escorted by KELVIN, ECLIPSE, WRESTLER, VELOX sail 7/12 to r.v. with you in position 037° 50' N. 017° 30' W. at 1030 zone minus one 9/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/6 to FURIOUS).

Azores, Oil Stock. Your telegram No. 1859 3/12 (Oil Stock to be available for ten ex-Norwegian whale catchers). Necessary request has been passed to consul Ponta Delgada Azores. For information, stocks fuel and diesel ample at Ponta Delgada and we welcome any opportunity to work them down on British approved business. (Consul Gen., New York, 1135/6 to Admty.)

/ Azores Patrol, ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Azores Patrol, SHEFFIELD CACHALOT

My 2235/5 SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar 1500/5 to patrol Azores to prevent enemy occupation. She has been informed (a) that most probable objectives are Ponta Delgada, Horta and the Island of Terceira. (b) Of the more possible landing places in the Island. (c) That the enemy U-boats normally operate to the East of the Island. (d) Of the details of your patrol.
Her orders are:-
(i) that she should not enter territorial waters or make her presence more conspicuous than necessary.
(ii) that she should abandon patrol when it is necessary to return to Gibraltar at 20 knots to fuel and to report in due course when this will be.
(D.O.D.(F) 1758/6 to CACHALOT).

Suspicious Vessels, Azores.

Portuguese coast watchers in San Miguel, Azores, sighted two suspicious vessels last night to eastward of Ponta Delgada and two others to westward of which one appeared to be man-of-war. Portuguese destroyer patrolling round island saw nothing. Naval Authorities are alarmed over rumours of German raid on island. They would be reassured if vessels were British. Request information on this point. Portuguese destroyer will carry out patrol again tonight. (N.A. Lisbon, 1824/6, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A. 2346/6, 0316/7 to EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD etc.)
Your 1824/6. These ships are not British. (D.D.I.C., 0005/7).

SWONA.

Instruct SWONA not to call at St. Vincent except in case of necessity, and report when instructions have been given. (D.O.D.(F) 2100/6, to Consul, Ponta Delgada).

ROBERT MAERSK, false report.

Following has been read:-
RRRR 41. 00 N., ?0. 22 W. ROBERT MAERSK attacked by two ships. (Gibraltar Radio, T.O.R. 2303/6).

Following has been read.
ROBERT MAERSK. Please cancel my RRRR 2245/6 G.M.T. (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 2352/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with Raider, 5/12.

No signal concerning action received at Freetown prior to CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201/5. Request you ascertain and report when next breaking W/T Silence relevant details CARNARVON CASTLE's previous signal including T.O.O. and transmission frequencies used, to whom transmitted and by whom received if known. (C.in C. S.A., 0001/6, to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 0001/6. This information to be sent when convenient. (C.in C. S.A. 0830/6).

A.W.I. informed. CARNARVON CASTLE was in action with raider who was last seen at 1400 G.M.T. Thursday 5/12 in position 031° 00' S. 043° 15' W. Course 040°, 19 knots. (D.D.I.C. 0007/6, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

R.A.S.A.D. 1625/5 and CARNARVON CASTLE 1740/5. Request description and last position course and speed be broadcast to Warships and Merchant ships in appropriate areas. (C.in C. S.A., 0016/6, to Admty.) Action taken (D.D.I.C. 0418/6, 0419/6).

Shipping Suspension. In view of raider report should sailings from River Plate be suspended? (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1107/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1107/6 is being passed to you, reply "no" has been made. (C.in C. S.A. 1647/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Details Requested. Unless W/T Silence is important report circumstances of encounter and what damage was inflicted on enemy. (V.C.N.S. 1325/6 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Visit to Montevideo. Your 2015/5 addressed B.N.A. Buenos Aires. Permission has laready been requested for CARNARVON CASTLE to visit Montevideo for 24 hours on 9/12. H.M. Minister considers it advisable to delay asking for 48 hours until ship arrives when details of repairs can be supplied to Uruguay authorities. No difficulty is then anticipated in obtaining extension of time. Please advise E.T.A. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1340Z/6 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ Report of Action .....

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Report of Action.

Note. Parts of this signal and of CARNARVON CASTLE's 2101/6 duplicate one another. Duplicate portions have been omitted in one or other of the signals.

Enemy opened accurate fire 0800 at 17,000 yards. Main aerial, fire control circuit and all communications cut early. Enemy was hit early, made smoke, on fire aft, twice reduced to one gun for short time.
23 hits on CARNARVON CASTLE. Structural damage extensive though superficial except as reported in her 1740Z/5.
CARNARVON CASTLE fired 500 rounds. Enemy expenditure greater. After immediate repairs at Montevideo, necessary for CARNARVON CASTLE to undergo dockyard refit before fit for service. Major defects including all circuit and piping.
After visiting CARNARVON CASTLE I consider she put up spirited fights against well equipped enemy with high trained personnel. Failure of control and communications prevented greater success.
Raider motor ship about 5,000 tons, Flush deck, raised forecastle, raked stem, cruiser stern, two heavy masts, prominent cross trees, short squat funnel, passenger accommodation round lower bridge. Possibly of AHRENSBURG or CAIRO class. Broadside probably four 5.9 guns and two torpedo tubes. Complete director system. Speed about 16½ knots.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1714Z/6, to Admty.)

Your 1325/6/12. Unknown ship sighted at 0642/5/12 and chased steering S.S.W. Slowly overhauled and at 0757 signalled by searchlight to stop but as she did not do so fired one warning round, at approx. range 17,500 yards, which fell short. Enemy turned 030 degrees to port and fired 4 gun salvoes, CARNARVON CASTLE turning to port and closing, but for 25 minutes (1714 says "20 minutes") enemy was out of our range, although she made good shooting.
At 14,000 yds. enemy was hit and for some time fired only one gun, being apparently on fire aft.
She reappeared from behind the smoke having turned to starboard and firing 4 gun salvoes. At 0830 observed the track of 2 torpedoes on slightly diverging courses and altered course to starboard torpedoes passed about 50 yards on each side.
Enemy was being hit up to this point, but about this time all CARNARVON CASTLE's control circuit and voice pipe and ammunition hoist motor were shot away, and accuracy of CARNARVON CASTLE's fire diminished very greatly. However enemy was again badly hit and her salvo reduced to one gun.
She made smoke and again showed signs of being on fire aft, turning away and being temporarily lost to sight.

/ At 0844 .....

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Report of Action. (contd.)

At 0644 at a range of 8,000 yards she reappeared with her port battery bearing and CARNARVON CASTLE was repeatedly hit being reported on fire amidship and in number two hold. At 0911 (1714 says 0910) decided to lengthen range in order to bring fire under control.
Smoke was made and range opened the enemy continuing to make good shooting up to a range of 18,000 yards.
When out of range and fire under control course was altered to endeavour to regain touch, but the enemy made smoke and disappeared in the haze. The fires in CARNARVON CASTLE were not completely out till 1115, and in view of damage decided to steer towards Montevideo.
Three compartments were flooded.

During the whole of the engagement the enemy appeared to avoid close action, and sustained at least 10 hits.
CARNARVON CASTLE suffered 23 direct hits two on the waterline and four others low enough to affect her seaworthiness.
The weather was hazy and while it is certain that the enemy sustained considerable damage and had two serious fires it was not possible to ascertain details.
Enemy fire was very rapid, at times reaching three salvoes to CARNARVON CASTLE's one.
All officers and men behaved in accordance with the highest tradition of the service.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 2101Z/6).

C.in C. South Atlantic's 0001/6 CARNARVON CASTLE commenced transmitting enemy reports on station H/F and 500 Kc/s at 1006 G.M.T. No signals were received by R.A.S.A.D. until 1228 G.M.T. and by QUEEN OF BERMUDA until after 1500 G.M.T.
N.O. i/c Falkland Isles and QUEEN OF BERMUDA report time of receipt and transmission frequency of any signals received from S. American Division Sth Atlantic Stn. between 1000 and 1800 G.M.T. Full report follows.
(R.A.S.A.D., 2346Z/6, to C.in C. S.A. etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ENGLISH TRADER disabled.

Following received.
S.N.O. Freetown ENGLISH TRADER, require towing rudder post fractured. Drifting. Position 0?1° 08' N. 021° 12' W. 0015/6. (Ends.) (C.in C. S.A., 0212/6, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

My 2250/5. Portuguese authorities unable to send Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO. (N.C.S.O., St. Vincent, 1131/6 to C.in C. S.A.).

RESOLUTION
VINDICTIVE

Departure 1000/6 RESOLUTION, VINDICTIVE, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND for Gibraltar in accordance with C.in C. South Atlantic's 1621/5. (S.O.I., Freetown 1037/6.) E.T.A. Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 0859N/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Germans at Fernando Po.

Arrival reported 1/12 at Fernando Po of SEAFOX from Bata with eleven Germans on board. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1202/6).

ARAWA
MORETON BAY.

Your 2224/5/12. Now that catapult is not to be fitted in either ship will not date of completion of H.M.S. ARAWA and H.M.S. MORETON BAY be earlier than now given. (C.in C. S.A., 1205/6, to Admty.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA
ARNDALE
ENTERPRISE

Leave Patrol now, proceed to pick up Oiler ARNDALE at sea rendezvous BLUE. Take 600 tons fuel from her at anchor F O then patrol 1232, entering Montevideo as arranged. Send Oiler ARNDALE to sea rendezvous ORANGE on completion. In case fuelling proves impossible you should if necessary anchor F O and I will try to advance date of visit to Montevideo. ENTERPRISE is proceeding into K 32 D then to K 33 C. Report completion of oiling otherise situation on P.M./10. (R.A.S.A.D.,1524Z/6, to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

Enemy M.V's.

List of German and Italian M.V's which have recently sailed or may sail in near future. (C.in C. S.A., to S.A. Sqdn., 1927/6).

MOOLTAN.

Your 1239/1. Propose that MOOLTAN be transferred to administration of some suitable authority in U.K. whilst undergoing long refit. (C.in C. S.A. 2028N/6, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA — Under consideration to send MALAYA to join you, passing through Narrows about (date). Will you be able to co-operate about this date? Simultaneous return passage of 3 "Collar" M.T. ships also being considered. (C.in C. Med. to S.O. Force H., 1015/6).

Assistance to Turkey. — C.in C. Med. 1335/6 see Mediterranean Volume.

Air Reports. — H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1122/6. (No naval items). B.A.F.C., 1416/6 (No items. Weather very bad).

Spezia. — Your 1344/5 and my 1849/29/11. Information that dock at Spezia has been enlarged to take LITTORIO class battleships considered reliable. (D.N.I., 1439/6 to S.O. Force H).

GLASGOW. — Details of damage. Hoped to dock 8/12. Temporary repairs will take some weeks. Final repairs beyond capacity of station resources. (C.in C. Med., 1501/6) Torpedoing of GLASGOW. Although Italians claimed hitting 2 cruisers at Suda Bay, unlikely they have any confidence of hit at all, as ship proceeded Alexandria under own power and was not seen on passage. Consider incident should not be published nor a denial of Italian claim made. (C.in C. Med., 1503/6 to Admty.)

Lazaretto Base. — With arrival of "U" class S/M's, considered Lazaretto Base should become an independent command. Proposals. (V.A. Malta, 1543/6).

TETRARCH, TRITON — Orders for patrol (Capt. S.1, 1853/6).

UPHOLDER, USK, UNIQUE — My 1222/4. UPHOLDER leaves Portsmouth 10/12 and USK and UNIQUE 11/12 for Gibraltar. Due there (date). (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. Med., 1611/6).

Transport of Aircraft. — Your 1931/27. Arrangements for sending Swordfish and Fulmar a/c's to Gibraltar in ARGUS. (S S.L., 1615/6, to C.in C. Med.)

Valona, bombed. — Operational Summary No. 25.
At 1130 hours G.M.T. 6/12 7 Blenheim aircraft No. 84 Sqdn. attacked the dockyards dumps and facilities at Valona. Munitions dump again hit also M.T. park. Black smoke seen from former target.
1 Battle Cruiser, 3 destroyers
1 15,000 ship and 10 smaller seen in harbour. (H.Q. B.A.F. Greece, 1720/6)

Greece. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Greece. — Santi Quaranta occupied by Greek forces 1030 this morning. (M.A. Athens to C.in C. M.E., 2007/6).

W.S.5A. — Your 90325 (Q(M)2.) cipher 25/11. (Arrangements for shipment of 13 T.L.C.s in Convoy W.S.5A.) Confirm can accept thirteen in W.S.5A and balance in Routine Freighters. (C.in C. M.E., 1935/6 to W.O.)

10th M.T.B. Flotilla. — Your 1647/2. Tentative arrangements being made to ship the 10th M.T.B. flotilla, of 7 - 55 ft. boats to the Mediterranean. Extemporised arrangements for maintenance must be made locally. The possibility of sending out VULCAN as M.T.B. depot ship is being examined. (Hd. of M. 2133/6 to C.in C. Med.).

East Indies.

BRITISH DUCHESS Suspicious Ship — Following has been received from Bombay Port W/T Mauritius.
38R49E BRITISH DUCHESS suspicious vessel (part missed) when sighted.
(Admiral, Colombo, 0505Z/6, to Admty.)

British ship BRITISH DUCHESS made following at 0503 G.M.T./6 (begins) Q Q Q Q 020° 44' S. 038° 49' E. suspicious vessel (portion not received) when sighted (ends). Neither an amplifying report nor a corrected version distress message have yet been received. (C.in C. E.I., 1024Z/6, to E.I. Sqdn.)

Dispositions. — My 1024/6 Following are dispositions of H.M. Ships in Mozambique Channel Area.
(a) CERES in approx. position 011° 40' S. 050° E. ? (at) 0600Z/6 proceeding towards position 020° S. 040° E. at 18 knots.
(b) SHROPSHIRE left Durban at 24 knots at about 1200Z/6 to cover shipping in Mozambique Channel as far (?north) as (? 020°) S.
(c) COLOMBO due Durban p.m./6 refuelling and awaiting orders.
(d) CORNWALL and KANIMBLA escorting W.S.4 A in approximate position 028° 50'S. 036 10' E. at 1030Z/6 speed 12 knots.
(e) CARTHAGE boiler cleaning at Durban.
(ii) Ships in paragraph one are to decode signals addressed to Force W.
(C.in C. E.I., 1404Z/6, to E. Indies Sqdn.)

/ My 1024/6 ....

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

My 1024/6 BRITISH DUCHESS cancelled distress message at 0633Z/6.
Ships now proceeding as follows (a) SHROPSHIRE to Durban at 15 knots.
(b) CERES in accordance with my 1216/2 arriving Seychelles 9/12.
(c) COLOMBO revert normal notice for steam.
S.N.O. Durban is requested revert Oiler OLCADES to normal notice.
(C.in C. E.I. 1942Z/6, to E.I. Sqdn.)

U.S. Ships. — Your 1327/1st noted, but it is only at a few ports on E.I. station with searched channels in force that pilots board ships before entering the searched channel and of these Mombasa is the only one likely to be visited by U.S.A. Ships. (C.in C. E.I., 0622Z/6 to Admty.)

SHROPSHIRE. — My 0534/6 (to H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE only.) As soon as ready proceed at 24 knots to give cover to shipping in Mozambique Channel as far north as 020° South. (C.in C. E.I., 0742Z/6).

Force T, Oiler. — Admty. 1442/11, 1917/24 and 0036/25. In view of the imminent formation of Force T and Strategic problem involved in providing protection for Shipping over long Ocean passages I consider another Oiler of good mobility is essential on East Indies Station. Details. (C.in C. E.I., 1754/6 to Admty.)

Assab bombed. — Operational Summary 177 for 24 hours ending 1500, 6/12.
0915, 3 Blenheims attacked Assab transport yard probably doing no damage. Photograph reveals considerable structural damage due raids on same target on 24/11 and 25/11 besides destruction of 2 dumps by fires previously reported. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1845/6).

China.

Burma. — Japanese occupation of Thai air bases a possibility Danger of air attack on Burma. (C.in C. Far East, 2051/6).

Singapore Conference. — Your 2008/4. (Re Singapore Conference). My 0911. (Received and circulated as 1911/31/10). First Nov. is my (NR)638.

M. de Schompre. — Enquiries lead me to believe De Schompre is quite suitable to represent De Gaulle in Far East. (C.in C. China, 0935Z/6 to Admty., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PENNLAND
T.C.S.
NEW NORTHLAND.

My 1853/3 not to you or C.in C.S.A. Understand small quantity of cargo is being loaded in Jamaica by Royal Mail. Balance of space will be utilised at Halifax.
C.in C. A. and W.I. 1101/4. Understand fruit ships already programmed to load Jamaica with fruit for U.K. will do so and that to divert via Freetown would possibly spoil cargo.
If suggestion as to use of ships of Force K is unacceptable and there are no normal sailings to Freetown from Bermuda or Halifax only other opportunity would appear to be NEW NORTHLAND which will probably leave Halifax end of December for Freetown and which could be diverted to Jamaica. Undesirable that guard should come to U.K.
D. of S.T. 0129/6 to N.O.I.C. Kingston) Admty. 0129/6. Arrangements for sailing of fruit ships and payment for passage of troops. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1620/6 to Admty.)

D. of S.T's 0129/6 and my 1630/5 not to C.in C. S.A. Military guard will now be disembarked at Kingston.
Naval party will proceed in PENNLAND. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1020/6 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

NEW NORTHLAND.

Request reply to my 1215/26 (re use of NEW NORTHLAND for troop carrying) in view of reference to NEW NORTHLAND in your 0129/6 indicating he is required. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1111/6, to D. of S.T.).

PENNLAND.

Your 1126/4 received 0045/6. No cargo space available. Refrigerated space 1992 cubic feet all of which is required for troops' provisions. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1125/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

"Town" Class Destroyers

Remaining 6 ships additional to my 1717/26/11 commissioned yesterday 5/12 with H.M. Crew. SALISBURY and NEWMARKET divisional leader:-
SALISBURY, NEWMARKET, RICHMOND, NEWARK, WELLS, NEWPORT. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 0937/6).

"Town"Class Destroyers.

Expect READING (S.O.) RAMSEY, RIPLEY and STANLEY to sail from St. John's Newfoundland on 8/12 (route)to Belfast in absence of other instructions. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1136/6 to Admty.)

/ Economic Warfare. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.12.1940. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Economic Warfare. Your 1302/4. Following from M.E.W. Goods consigned to or from firms on War Trade Lists should not be removed from any repeat any Neutral ship plying between North and South America unless such goods are clearly of Enemy Origin. You will be informed immediately of any change of policy.
(D.E.W.D. 1936/6, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE. ADELAIDE left Sydney 2209Z/5 for Patrol off New South Wales Coast.
(A.C.N.B., 0628Z/6).

MANOORA. MANOORA escorting local transport ZEALANDIA left Thursday Island 0740Z/5 for Darwin.
(A.C.N.B., 0930Z/6).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

WINNETOU
ELSA ESSBERGER — German ships Kobe. WINNETOU and ELSA ESSBERGER left harbour 30/11. Former returned 5/12, no trace yet of latter. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0343Z/6 to Admty. amended 0754/10).

AEGINA. — 2447 tons, last reported in Adriatic, is to be put into service between Spanish ports and Genoa for fruit transport. (D.S. 459).

MADRID. — About 40 Germans of seafaring type who arrived by air at Las Palmas 3/12 may man ships in port, presumably MADRID, which is preparing to leave. (D.S.459).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

OLTERRA
LAVORO. — Your 1708/5. Spanish authorities are being informed that transfer of flag is not recognised and that if met on the high seas ships will be liable to be seized.
(Head of M. 2046/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OLIMPIA. — 6040 tons, sent out S.O.S. 6/12 from a position somewhere in Adriatic or Eastern Mediterranean. (D.S. 459).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

FORFAR
(Torpedoed 2/12)

FORFAR Chronological Extracts from Narrative. All times G.M.T. Monday 2/12. 0330 Object sighted Starboard Beam and Captain called. 0353 ship struck by torpedo amidships starboard side abreast after funnal. Engines stopped due to damage immediately. Position 54° 19' N., 19° 54' W., At 0445 ship struck port side by second torpedo opposite position of first hit but higher. Ship began to settle. Third torpedo struck port side at 0450 further aft just under port cutter smashing this boat. Star shell fired by ship. At 0453 fourth torpedo struck port side under P. 2 boat. Third and fourth torpedoes were high. Ship commenced to split amidships on even keel. At 0455 fifth torpedo struck port side amidships H.A. magazine exploded. Ship breaking up, and two sections drifting apart and settling rapidly. Another smaller explosion reported two minutes later. From boats several groups star shell observed, presumed fired by submarine. At 0710

DUNSLEY

SS DUNSLEY sighted from boats, ship had become detached from Convoy S.X. 90 and had attempted to pick up survivors of another torpedoed ship. Whilst doing so ship had been shelled by a submarine and received slight damage, and some damage to cargo of pit props. 0930 two destroyers I 92 and H 83 made contact and were directed to position of rafts. Weather fine. Sky overcast slight S.W. wind and swell. Visibility moderate. 0106/6.

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 2035/5 LOCH RANZA in position 055° 35' N., 006° 58' W., (ST. LAURENT 0001/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Detach one corvette to stand by LOCH RANZA at daylight somewhere between 055° 32' N., 008° 02' W., and Inishtrahull. ST LAURENT and THAMES are in company. On relief by Corvette ST LAURENT is to proceed to Clyde (C. in C., W.A., 0033/6 to WELLINGTON, ST. LAURENT)

My 0033 correct position 055° 35' N., 005° 58' W., (C. in C., W.A., 0216/6)

C. in C., W.A. 0033 and 0245 Stand by LOCH RANZA in position 055° 55' N., (WELLINGTON 0320/6 to HELIOTROPE)

/LOCH RANZA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LOCH RANZA (Torpedoed 2/12) Contd.

LOCH RANZA 15 miles East of Inishtrahull. (LOCH RANZA 0944/5)

Received at 1540 G.M.T. DE LOCH RANZA. We are in Loch Indail, Islay, in immediate need of tug assistance, badly listed and not sure of anchorage. THAMES Tug is on the way here but cannot arrive before dark, Captain LOCH RANZA. (Port Patrick Radio, 1538/6 to Navycharge, Greenock)

LOCH RANZA reports she is anchoring off Loch Indail, Islay. Salvage tug THAMES proceeding to her. My position is Rue Point Rathlin Is. Steering back along route K 10 knots. Request instructions. (HELIOTROPE, 1545/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

RAJAHSTAN (Torpedoed 2/12)

Following has been read from RAJAHSTAN. Funnel gone both boats smashed bearing from GPK 306 all from GLV 313 de GKU (Port Patrick Radio 0953/6)

S.O.S. RAJAHSTAN approx. position 55.48 N., 7.25 W., funnel stove in, can't steam, both lifeboats smashed, tugs necessary. (Port Patrick Radio, 1011/6)

(Unknown) LADY GLANELLY VICTOR ROSS (Torpedoed 2/12)

Following ships were torpedoed and no further information has been received as to ships or survivors:-
54° 23' N., 20° 11' W., 0415/2 55° 00' W., 0957/2 56° 04' N., 18° 30' W.,.
(C. in C., W.A. 1126/6 to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE)

PALMELLA (? date)

Ministry of Marine informs me that Spanish Vessel arrived Lisbon last night with 28 survivors of British steamer PALMELLA (N.A. Madrid, 1145/6)

GWALIA (Torpedoed 2/12?)

It is possible Swedish GWALIA (O.G. 46) may also have been torpedoed in early hours of 2/12 N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports ship has not arrived there (F.O.C.N.A., 1604/6 to Admty.)

Arrived ST LAURENT with about 100 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1954/6)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0225 — About 60° N., W of 15° W., indefinite (D.S. 458)

1240 — D.F., U-Boat in 52.00 N.,to 53.00 N., and W. of 20.00 W., (C. in C., W.A., 1352/6 to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE)

1853 — D.F., probable U-Boat, 55.20 N., 10.40 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1920/6)

1215 — U-Boat sighted in 60.30 N., 08.54 W., at 1215 today. (A.C.O.S. 2140/6 Sighted by REPULSE, probably Italian D.S. 459)

1809 — About 52° N., 15°-20° W., indefinite position (D.S. 459)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 off Cape Spartel 2143/3 probably bound for Azores Area.
1 was 250 miles west of Lisbon on 3rd and may still be patrolling.
1 west of Spain bound for Bordeaux.
2 or possibly 3 in North West Approaches whereabouts unknown.
German- 1 in Finisterre Area probably bound for Lorient.
1 about 48° N., 6° West bound for Lorient
1 has arrived in area North of 55° N., and East of 15° West.
1 was in about 53° N., 18° W., to 19° W., at 1650/5.
1 about 55° N., 20° W., at 0403/5.
1 in area 60° N., to 60° 30' N., 16° W., to 18° W., at 0225/6.
1 probably patrolling north of 61° E., of 20° West.
1 more in North West Approaches whereabouts unknown (D.D.I.C. 1336/6)

MOST SECRET.

Saturday.
7th December 1940.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Home Fleet.
A/A Precautions.

When in harbour ships are to be prepared to destroy floating flares. Details. (C. in C.H.F. 0931/7 to Home Fleet 76.2).

ICARUS

On return to Immingham is to replace Gun Armament but not Torpedo Tubes (A.C.N.S.H. 1127/7 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

Plymouth
Air Decoy.

Sites to be settled and reported and work to proceed (D. of L.D. 1148/7 to C. in C. W.A.) Request representativ of C.E. in C. Bath may visit Plymouth to give technical advise. (D. of L.D. 1150/7 to C.E. in C. Bath).

Comprehensive scheme has been prepared and is being put into effect. Request you concur all communications be arranged locally and subsequently reported (D. of L.D. 1219/7 to Air Ministry).

Channel
Striking Force.

Your 1810/6. It is understood that the designed speed of 6th D.F. is only half a knot higher than that of 5th D.F.

Whether 5th or
6th D.F.

2. Unless 6th are actually about 2 knots faster than 5th consider exchange would not be an advantage as the C.O.'s of 5th are now familiar with the conditions, and enemy's tactics, in the Channel and have benefitted from action experience.

3. As efficiency for night action is of the first importance for the Channel Striking Force, all destroyers in it should be fitted with A.S.V. or R.D.F. Two of 5th are fitted with A.S.V. Request that this may also be taken into account when considering the change. (C. in C. W.A. 1230/7 to Adty)

Your 1810/6 6th D.F. have an advantage in speed of one to one and a half knots which is not considered sufficient to offset the disadvantage of their larger silhouette and the loss of experience of the C.O's of the 5th D.F. in Channel waters.

The 6th D.F. are better sea boats and for that reason I would prefer to retain them for working with the Battle Cruisers. I suggest success or failure depends almost entirely on the standard of night fighting efficiency. (C. in C. H.F. 1601/7 to Adty).

/Dutch...

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy contd.

Dutch Warships.
HEEMSKIRK
ISAAC SWEERS.

It has been arranged with the Dutch authorities that the Cruiser HEEMSKIRK and Destroyer ISAAC SWEERS, completing at Portsmouth and Southampton in February 1941 and March 1941 respectively, are provisionally allocated to the Command of C. in C. W.A. for service with the Plymouth Striking Force. (1st S.L. 1258/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

A/C at Hatston.

Your 1355/6 816 and 825 Squadrons are training.

3. Experience has shown difficulty of efficiently combining training and operations at Hatston, and it is strongly recommended that the squadrons be brought to a higher state of training before being employed operationally.

4. Consider that by mid January 816 Squadron should be sufficiently trained to move to Hatston for operations and 825 can complete their training at Hatston. Propose that both squadrons move to Hatston about 15/1. (R.A.N.A.S. 1316/7 to Adty).

4th M.A/S.B. Flotilla.

C. in C. W.A. 1852/5. Propose boats of 4th M.A/S.B. Flotilla on completion of repairs be temporarily assigned to FOWEY. If approved it is essential that Oerlikon guns be retained. (R.A.C.F. 1640/7 to Adty).

Fishing in Iceland. Prohibited area.

A.T. 0221/31/8. Reports have been received that fishing has been taking place, in particular by Icelandic and Faroese vessels, inside the prohibited area off the East Coast of Iceland.

2. It is of great importance that this area should not be compromised. Steps are to be taken to prevent fishing inside this area. Any permission given to fish within the area should be withdrawn.

3. Local craft may continue to be routed through this area in accordance with A.T. 2325/13/7. (Hd. of M. 1949/7)

7

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.	At. 1130/7 (D.C. 1151/7) At 2330/7 (D.C. 2340/7)
Scapa, A/A Defenses.	Your X.179 6/12 and this Headquarters A.11 6/12. Submit the request for 232 Flight to be brought to full squadron strength be given urgent consideration (H.C.F.C.1735/7 to Air Ministry).
	Movements.
VANITY	E.T.A. 20. C. Buoy 0300/8 (VANITY 0931/7 to N.O.I.C. Tyne) My 0931 5 hours late (VANITY 1650/7 to N.O.I.C. Tyne).
SABRE.	Arrived Londonderry 6/12 (Capt.D. Londonderry 0053/7 to Admty)
ICARUS	Sailed E.T.A. North Goodwin 0615 (C in C. Portsmouth 0203/7) My 1302 Pass Aldeburgh Light Float at 1700/7 and arrive Humber Light Vessel not before 0400/8 (C in C. Nore 0700/7 to ICARUS).
Nore. Ships out of Action	My 0940/2. Delete GARTH. Insert JACKAL, Humber, 1/1/41 (C. in C. Nore 0740/7).
QUORN.	Sailed 0745/7 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0751/7).
Nore.	Dispositions for Night 7/8 (C. in C. Nore 0800/7)
SIKH BEAGLE	Returned Scapa 0100 from Screening RODNEY (A.C.O.S. 0931/7.)
RUBENS, for Gibraltar.	On completion A/S trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Tobermory to work up and then to Gibraltar in first available convoy joining the 7th A/S Coup on arrival. (D.A.G.W. 1040/7 to N.O.I.C. Blyth).
FURIOUS.	My 1852/5. On arrival in U.K. to proceed to Liverpool for boiler-cleaning and repairs to brick-work. Should be ready to sail 28/12 (V.C.N.S. 1142/7).

/CONTINUED .....

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (contd.).

COSSACK.
SIKH.

Proceed, passing Swiths 0900/8, to R/V in 55°N 22'W at 1000/11 B.S.T. with RAMILLIES, FURIOUS, CALIFORNIA, FRANCONIA, and provide additional Escort to Clyde. Adty. 2258/3 and 1734/6. C. in C. W.A. 1255/6 (R.A.D. 1357/7 to D.4.).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

To be moved to Rosyth westabout at earliest opportunity. Report date when ready to sail. (Controller 1159/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HECLA
TYNE
MAIDSTONE

HECLA has been allocated as Destroyer Depot Ship at Clyde and will proceed there as soon as possible without completing W/T equipment. TYNE will complete about 20/2/41 and it is desired to keep MAIDSTONE at Scapa till relieved by TYNE. Request your concurrence (V.C.N.S. 1259/7 to V.A.S.) Concur (V.A.S. 1749/7).

VOLUNTEER

Sailed 1020. E.T.A. Falmouth 1315 (C. in C. W.A. 1304/7) Arrived (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1330/7)

PEGASUS

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1422/7)

Orkneys

Movements tonight (F.O.C.C.S. 1536/7)

FORMIDABLE
DOUGLAS.
KEPPEL.
VIMY

FORMIDABLE's 1712/6 Cancel my 1510/5 BEVERLEY and BURNHAM are not available (C. in C. W.A. 1552/7 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) My 0957/5 You will be required with DOUGLAS and KEPPEL to escort FORMIDABLE from Clyde to Scapa leaving 10/12. (R.A.D. H.F. 2209/7 to VIMY) When released from present duties, proceed to Clyde and complete with oil-fuel. (R.A.D. H.F. 2223/7 to DOUGLAS, KEPPEL).

Portsmouth

Night Movements 7/8 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1557/7).

SHIKARI

Arrived Londonderry (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1645/7)

Western Channel.

Night Report. (C. in C. W.A. 1648/7)

RAMILLIES

My 1719/6 (Docking of Ship) For Portsmouth read Devonport. (D.C.D. H. 1711/7 to C. in C. W.A).

/KENT.....

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

KENT. C. in C. S.A. 1317/6. To proceed to Devonport for repairs. Should be routed independently from 52°N. (Controller 1712/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

WOLVERINE Sailed. E.T.A. Londonderry 0800/8 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1909/7).

ANTELOPE. Sailed. E.T.A. Liverpool 0900/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2124/7)

Nore. Movements to 1200/8 (C. in C. Nore 1200/7).

Rosyth. Movements for Night 7/8. (C. in C. Rosyth 1614/7 and 1810/7).

Operations

Operation. MONSOON. My 1852/5. FURIOUS will not now be required to sial for Operation MONSOON on 17/12, but should complete loading A/C and be ready to sail on 28/12. (V.C.N.S. 1142/7 to FURIOUS).

Admiralty's 1142/7 and my 1426/4. Escort by RAMILLIES permits boiler cleaning on passage. Estimate 12 boilers clean by 19/12 and ship ready to sail MONSOON next day.

If however Admiralty's 1142/7 stands request 150 seamen, 30 Royal Marines and 60 engine room ratings on arrival at Liverpool for embarkation of stores and aircraft, sentries, and manning close range weapons. (FURIOUS 2140/7 to Adty).

Raider sweep to intercept. My 0445/7 H.F. C.C.N.A. see North Atlantic. Request you will arrange for DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA and CALIFORNIA to carry out a sweep to the eastern limit of areas F.3, G.3, and H.3. 2. Object to intercept possible raider. 3. Ships are to return to their present areas on completion. (D.C.D.F. 1318/7 to F.O.C.N.P).

Carry out Adty. 1318/7 forthwith. (F.O.C.N.P. 1416/7 to DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA, CALIFORNIA).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued).

Your 1214/7. ROBERT MAERSK made raider signal when challenged. When identified was instructed to cancel raider signal and permitted to proceed. Today second vessel seen but not identified. (CIRCASSIA 1439/7 to F.O.C.N.P.).

Cancel my 1318/7 (D.O.D.F. 1841/7 to F.O.C.N.P.)
Cancel my 1416/7 (F.O.C.N.P. 2230/7.).

Knob Light Vessel. Was boarded on 19/11 by the Trinity House Authorities. The crew of this Light Vessel had been previously withdrawn. On boarding it was found all deck house doors had been forced open. 2. Request. you report whether any of H.M. Ships boarded the Light Vessel, and if so under what circumstances, or whether you have any other information which could throw light on this matter. (D.O.D.H. 1506/7 to C. in C. Nore).

Troop Embarkation. Admiralty 1703/27/11 and 1501/9/11. ROYAL SCOTSMAN is to sail with GLENGYLE and GLENROY to Lamlash and is to act as overflow personnel ship as required. It is anticipated that up to 30 officers and 300 men and 5 cinema operators may require accommodation. Ship is to remain at 48 hours' notice in accordance with A/T 1501/9/11 para 1. (D.O.D.H. 1507/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Iceland. HONNINGSVAAG escorting TORDENSKJOLD sailed for Reydarbjordr (F.O. Iceland 1730/7 to Adty). Until further orders the Examination Service Vessel at Reykjavik will patrol in about Engey Bank Light 300° 6½ cables (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1835/7 to Adty).

Submarines.

TAKU. My position at midnight 46°13'N 3°3'W Full gale (TAKU 0101/7)

WHITE BEAR. 19 hours early (WHITE BEAR 0358/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock 2002/7 to S.9).

/URGE.....

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Continued)

URGE. Replace propellors being fitted, involving 24 hours delay. Intend sailing 11/12 (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1540/7)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/8 (V.A.S. 1714/7)

Greenock Area. Positions (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1732/7)

O.14. Request she be sailed Tobermory to arrive Dundee 22/12, and Escort provided (Capt S.7 1858/7 to WESTERN ISLES).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2244/30. Air Patrols to-day as follows. Also R/C of Narvik. (C in C Rosyth 0134/7.
2 Blenheim A/C leave Dyce at daylight to carry out sweep Flamborough Head and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0716/7 to ships) My. 0134/7 R.C. of Narvik cancelled (C. in C. Rosyth 0738/7) Cancel my 0830/4. Commencing 8/12 Following A/S Air Patrols will be flown A.M. daily, weather permitting. Sydero Patrol and Muggy Patrol. Details (C. in C. Rosyth 1300/7 to Ships) My. 2244/30. Amend preamble to read that Patrols decided upon will be signalled when it is known that they are likely to be flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1350/7). Assessments. (C. in C. Rosyth 1956/7).

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber. Your 1927/4 (Attack on G.H. Auxiliary Patrol) Following report dated 5/12 from Commandeth York. (Hofor 0945/7 to Adty).

Portsmouth. Your 1741/4. Air Raid of 1940 to 2000/6. Few small Bombs. Slight damage and few casualties. (C in C. Portsmouth 1000/7 to Adty).

Skellige. At 1325/3 Trawlers SLEBECK and WILLIAM DOWNS were attacked by A/C while fishing 5 miles W.N.W. of Skelligs. 7 Bombs and Machine-gun. Superficial damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1120/7 to Adty).

/Enemy A/C .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

Enemy A/C daily over Irish ports.

Many Skippers of Trawlers fishing off coast of Ireland report a German plane passes over Ballycotton and Irish ports at about 1330 daily, and a searchlight from Queenstown operates nightly. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1121/7 to Adty).

Your 1121/7 Request description of A/C be obtained. Also usual course and average height. (D.D.I.C. 1817/7 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Mining.

Z.M.E.4.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1800 today, lay about 2030, returning Milford Haven 2300 (ADVENTURE 1018/7) Completed (ADVENTURE 2120/7)

SUPREMITY. (mined 1900/6)

(British, 554 Tons) Reported mined. (N.O.S.O. Thames 1842/7 to C. in C. Nore) 1900/6. 3 cables W.S.W. charted position East ooze L.V. No. casualties (Cdre i/c Sheerness 1731/7).

CAPRICORNUS.

(M/S Trawler) Damaged by close Mine, now beached close East of East Cant Buoy. Request salvage party. (C in C Nore 2301/7 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ
BISMARCK.
Tank positions.

Following from Navy Department. From Berlin, dated 31/10. Air Marshal sent Foreign Naval Attache, it was learned TIRPITZ is at Wilhelmshaven and BISMARCK is at Gotenhafen TIRPITZ is camouflaged to represent the red brick building which is her background at pier. Masts, f.c. stations, stacks etc. are painted brick coloured with black squares two by three metres representing windows. Decks are painted to resemble a house top when seen from above. Large number of pontoons (Floats) large enough to transport tanks are being built at Wilhelmshaven. (N.A. Washington 1220/7).

/M.V's off.....

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday..

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (continued).

M/V's off Norwegian Coast. — Aircraft report 6000 tons motor ship at anchor Aalesand Harbour. At 1130 2000 tons Motor Ship 062° 33'N 006° 12' E Course 360° 10 knots. 4000 tons Motor Ship 062° 39'N 006° 41'E Course 260° 12 Knots. 2000 tons Motor Ship 062 45'N 006° 50'E. (V.A.S. 1441/7 to SUNFISH).

Brest — 3 Destroyers and presumed Floating Dock (H.Q.C.C. 1715/7).

TEMPLAR. — My 0150/29. Report graded c.3. states crew on board by 18/11 and expected leave Hamburg by 30/11. (D.N.I. 1747/7) Reports graded C.3. state speed 14½ knots and fited out as A.M.C. (P.O.C.N.P. 2251/7 to Northern Patrol).

TULANE. — (Norwegian, 5485 Tons) Report graded B.2. states is fitting out as A.M.C. Speed 16 knots. Probable armament six 4.1 inch Guns, A/A Guns, and searchlights. (D.N.I. 1747/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ROYSTON. (British, 2722 Tons) Ashore at Palling at 0056/7 G.M.T. Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER sent at 0240 and Tug LOWESTOFT from Lowestoft also being sent (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0310/7 to C. in C. Nore) Tug LOWESTOFT sailed 0815/7 (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0840/7 to Adty).

SANDWICH. (Sloop) Have lost contact with O.B. 254. My position 55° 43'N. 7° 38'W. Asdic cabinet flooded and depth-charge release gear damaged. Am proceeding to Liverpool. (SANDWICH 0330/7 and 1000/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

CHEVREUIL. (French Minesweeper) Arrived with Engine-Room defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0911/7).

TABARISTAN. (British, 6251 Tons)
HARLESDEN (British, 5483 Tons)
ADAMAS. (Greek, 4144 Tons)
MERCHANT (British, 4615 Tons).
(Convoy S.C.13)

Your 1840/6. Remainder of Escort shoul endeavour to locate Convoy and ship in distress. Positions of Ships as follow (C. in C. W.A. 0804/7 to WELLINGTON, CLARKIA, SCIMITAR).
My position 55° 20'N 9° 20'W. Intend to pass through position of ADAMAS and Ships East of Inishtrahull in your 0804/7 and search along North Irish Coast. Must refuel this evening. (SCIMITAR 1000/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

AGHIA EIRINI. (Greek, 4330 Tons) Your 2039/6. Am hove to in 55°N 35°52'W at 1051. Hol full of water. S.O.S. (Plymouth 1135/ Request you sail Tug ASSURANCE to assist in 54°6'N 18° 18'W (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1738/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonder

VESPER. Lost touch with O.B. 254 in severe gale. Flooded oscillator and punctured dome. Hove to in 56°N. 10° (VESPER 0900/7 to C.in C. W.A.).

UNBEATEN. My 1531/6. Still ashore. Tug unable to help owing to weather which is now moderating. (VAS. 0951/7 to Adty) Particulars (VAS. 1522/8) Refloated (S.3. 2047/8. to V.A.S.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

STOLLWIJK — (Dutch, 2489 Tons). On rocks between Imishdovy and Imishborin, Ireland. Breaking up. No boat. Please take crew off. (F.O.Humber 1005/7 to Adty).

HURRICANE. — Cancel my 1930/6. (Escort for HURRICANE). Comply with my 1226/6. (C. in C. W.A. 1112/7 to HESPERUS).

GUINEAN. — (British, 5205 Tons). Sailed Tug PRUDENT to assist off Girvan. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1127/7). No longer needs help. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1622/7).

GARLAND. — Asdic out of action and stern compartment flooded in 55° 40' 30" N. 10° 55' W. (GARLAND 1130/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

ASHCREST. — (British, 5652 Tons) Proceed to assist in 55°N. 9° 8' W. Drifting at 0920. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1131/7 to ENGLISHMAN). Position at 1438 was 54° 50' N. 9° 7' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1720/7 to ENGLISHMAN). Rudder broken. S.O.S. (Valentia Radio 1848/7). A/C report position at 1353 today 55° 3' N. 9° 2' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/7 to STELLA POLARIS, ENGLISHMAN) Tug essential. Position at 0700 about 55° 10' N. 10° W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0710/8 to Adty). Proceeding to ASHCREST 7 knots (ENGLISHMAN 0825/8) Pumps unable cope with water. (ASHCREST 1019/8).

TULIP. — (Corvette). Damaged by grounding and collision. Details. Request dockyard destination. (WESTERN ISLES 1601/7 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).

DIONYSSIOS STRATHATOS. — (Greek, 5168 Tons). Lose rudder and stern-post Rush assistance. Position 58° N. 26° 30' W. (Recd. via D.T.D.1605/7).(D.T.D.1312/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

WALKER. — Position 58° 10' N. 11° 40' W. Am damaged. Asdic compartment flooded and oil-tank leaking. Will probably require docking. (WALKER 1632/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

CORSETHORN. — Abandoned at anchor in 284° Bar Light Vessel 14½ miles, Liverpool Bay. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1801/7 to Adty).

ROYAL SCOTSMAN. — Vessel dragged her anchors yesterday and drove into ROYAL SCOTSMAN. Damage to bows. Every effort will be made to render her seaworthy in 24 hours from 1000/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1855/7 and F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2209/7 to Adty.) Completes temporary repairs 1000/9 at Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1919/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (CONTD:)

BRIGAND.	(Reserve Tug) Arrived Kirkwall with defects. (A.C.O.S.1914/7 to Adty).
HOPESTAR.	(British,5267 Tons) Sailed Tug PRUDENT to assist in Belfast Lough (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2201/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
LORMONT (Ex-Guardship)	Lost by collision. (F.O. Humber 2310/7 to Adty).
CORTINA (M/S Trawler)	(F.O.Humber 1119/8).
ACCOMAC.	(347 tons) Ashore Belfast Lough. Boiler exploded. Total loss. (D.O.R.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys

Estimated positions 0900/7.(D.T.D. to C.in C. H.F., 1039/7).

W.N.49.

Your 0707 (? FERNIE) sailed Aberdeen 2330 Northwards convoying W.N.49,0 passed Buchaness 2315 convoying W.N.49,C passed Kinneard Head 0240.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0100/7 to BRIGAND).
My 1845/6 Clyde Section W.N.49 Bell Rock 12 miles at noon. E.t.a. Bell Rock 1300 May Is.1530, Elie Ness 1710. (ULLSWATER 1230/7 to C. in C. Rosyth) Arrivals. SAON with W.N.49 Obar portion. ULLSWATER, RUMBA, JASON with W.N.49 Clyde portion. Carrier FOSSBECK, Boom trawlers DOCTOR LEE. IMELDA ex W.N.49 from Scapa. (C. in C.Rosyth 2355/7).

F.S.54.

Sailed 0200. (F.O.I.C.Tyne 0202/7).

O.B.254.

Have lost contact with O.B.254 in heavy weather. Damaged. (SANDWICH, 0330/7 to C. in C. W.A.) (See also S.L.56).

F.N.52)
F.N.53)
F.S.53)
F.S.54)

Movements to 1200/8. F.N.52 Outer Dowsing 1200/7. F.N.53 Aldeburgh 2000/7. F.S.53 near Cromer Knoll 1200/7. F.S.54 Outer Dowsing 1800/7. (C. in C. Nore, 1200/7).

E.N.37)
F.S.55)
F.N.52)

Movements tonight 7/8. E.N.37 escorted by CURACOA, Banff 2000/7. F.S.55 Whitby 1900/7. F.N.52. e.t.a. 20 C buoy 0800/8.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1614/7 amended 1810/7).

F.N.53

Departure to join F.N.53, 7/12 group 31 A/T's, CURTANA, BRACONMOOR, CARISBROOK, GEORGE ROBB at 1715. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1740/7).
Departure 7/12 TARANSAY (Yacht) to join F.N.53 at 1725. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1757/7).

H.X.93.

Route amended. AURANIA returns to Halifax when relieved by RODNEY. Escort LUPIN.
(D.T.D. 1203/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.14.

Your 1802/2. S.C.14 not met after 24-hour search. Visibility poor, bad weather persists. Passage resumed. (REVENGE,2256/7).

F.N. 54.)
F.N. 55.)

My 1641/1 and 1019/6. F.N.54 cancelled. Amend escort to F.N.55 to read LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON, WOLFHOUND, WALLACE (C. in C. Rosyth 1537/7).

O.B.255

Sailed 1300/7. 8 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey (1446/7).

....E.N.38.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.40. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (Contd:)

H.N.38	Sailing 2200/8, 16 ships (11 overseas) escorts PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE (N.C.S.O.Methil 1652/7).
S.C.15	Cancel my 1222/5. CILICIA leave Clyde 2300/8 to R/V with S.C.15 (position) and act as ocean escort. Admty. requested to inform CILICIA of route time and position of R/V. (F.O.C.N.P. 1842/7 to CILICIA).
S.L.58 (Slow).	Sailed 1300/7 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1817/7).
H.X.91.	Not met. 0300 059° 00' N. 013° 30' W. 119° (HONEYSUCKLE, 0440/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
S.C.13.	Your 1840/6, remainder of escort should endeavour to locate convoy and ship in distress. (TABARISTAN) position at 1222/6 055° 47' N. 007 20' W. (HARLESDEN) position at 0745/6 20 miles S. of Skerryvore. ADAMAS position at 0921/6 10 miles N.W. of Tory Island. MERCHANT position at 1144/6 15 miles E. of Inistrahull. (C. in C. W.A., 0804/7 to WELLINGTON).
S.L.56.	Return Londonderry refuel then proceed to meet S.L.56. further orders follow. (C. in C. W.A. 1012/7 to VESPER).
O.B.254 S.L.56.	Proceed along track of convoy O.B.254 covering any stragglers then proceed to escort S.L.56 meet signal follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1020/7 to GARLAND, LADY LILIAN).
S.L.56	BULOLO to leave S.L.56 at Noon/8 and proceed independently to Greenock (route). (C. in C. W.A. 1438/7 to BULOLO).
	Sail BEVERLEY, BURNHAM to meet S.L.56 when ready. (C.in C. W.A. 1554/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).
	My position 056° 27' N. 022° 28' W. Shall be unable to R/V with S.L.56 in daylight today. Intend meet them at daylight 8/12. If convoy is not late shall be able to remain with them for 48 hours before returning for fuel. (HESPERUS, 1220/7 to C.in C. W.A.)
S.L.56 S.L.57	C. in C. S.A. 1905/5 A.M.1142/6 instruct BULOLO and CANTON where to leave convoys and route them to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1954/6 to C. in C. W.A.).

.....F.N.52.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (Contd:)

H.N.38	Sailing 2200/8, 16 ships (11 overseas) escorts PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE (N.C.S.O.Methil 1652/7).
S.C.15	Cancel my 1222/5. CILICIA leave Clyde 2300/8 to R/V with S.C.15 (position) and act as ocean escort. Admty. requested to inform CILICIA of route time and position of R/V. (F.O.C.N.P. 1842/7 to CILICIA).
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H.X.91.	Not met. 0300 059° 00' N. 013° 30' W. 119° (HONEYSUCKLE, 0440/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
S.C.13.	Your 1840/6, remainder of escort should endeavour to locate convoy and ship in distress. (TABARISTAN) position at 1222/6 055° 47' N. 007 20' W. (HARLESDEN) position at 0745/6 20 miles S. of Skerryvore. ADAMAS position at 0921/6 10 miles N.W. of Tory Island. MERCHANT position at 1144/6 15 miles E. of Inistrahull. (C. in C. W.A., 0804/7 to WELLINGTON).
S.L.56.	Return Londonderry refuel then proceed to meet S.L.56 further orders follow. (C. in C. W.A. 1012/7 to VESPER).
O.B.254 S.L.56.	Proceed along track of convoy O.B.254 covering any stragglers then proceed to escort S.L.56 meet signal follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1020/7 to GARLAND, LADY LILIAN).
S.L.56	BULOLO to leave S.L.56 at Noon/8 and proceed independently to Greenock (route). (C. in C. W.A. 1438/7 to BULOLO). Sail BEVERLEY, BURNHAM to meet S.L.56 when ready. (C.in C. W.A. 1554/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast). My position 056° 27' N. 022° 28' W. Shall be unable to R/V with S.L.56 in daylight today. Intend meet them at daylight 8/12. If convoy is not late shall be able to remain with them for 48 hours before returning for fuel. (HESPERUS, 1220/7 to C.in C. W.A.)
S.L.56 S.L.57	C. in C. S.A. 1905/5 A.M.1142/6 instruct BULOLO and CANTON where to leave convoys and route them to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1954/6 to C. in C. W.A.).

.....F.M.52.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (Contd:)

P.N.52 — Number 7/12:- Departure M/S Trawler ORMONDE 0900 to join F.N.52 thence Aberdeen. (F.O. Number 1202/7 to Admty).

S.L.58 — Departures 1200 7/12 KENT (with BRIDGEWATER and TURCO MAN as local escort) escorting convoy S.L.58 in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1317/6. (S.O.(1).Freetown 1437N/7 to Admty).

F.N.54
F.N.55 — F.N.54 cancelled. Ships will sail at 0800/9 as F.N.55 (Fast). Southend may sail up to 60 ships. Escorts LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON, WOLFHOUND, WALLACE.
(C. in C. Nore, 1500/7 to N.C.S.O.Southend).

Salvage Tug MESSUS will sail join F.N.54 9/12. (F.O. Number 1555/7 to Admty).

E.N.38
W.N.51 — Sail 1430 8/12 for Methil act subsequently as additional A.A. escort to E.N.38 sailing 2200/8. On meeting transfer to W.N.51 due Cape Wrath 2130/10 and Duncansby 1130/11. Keep steam at immediate notice off Methil and be prepared to slip cable as necessary to engage enemy aircraft.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2217/7 to FOWEY).

4 M.V's. — Intend sail F.S. BRANLEBAS, A/S Trawlers VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE escorting 4 M/V's for Dartmouth. E.t.d. Needles 1715, e.t.a. Dartmouth 0815/7. Request for lights. Requested you take F.S. BRANLEBAS under your command on arrival.
(C.inC. Portsmouth 1227/7 C.in C. W.A.)

My 1227/7. Sailed three M/V's escorted by F.S. BRANLEBAS. A/S Trawlers VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1827/7 to Admty).

JOKULL — Your 0029/27/11 and my 1200/1. Careful investigation by British Naval Authorities and Icelandic Maritime Court has acquitted JOKULL of deliberate breaking of seal. Method of sealing will be improved.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland,1630/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

NALGORA. — Proceed 1100/8 and escort S.S.NALGORA from Methil to Clyde sailing at about 1400 speed about 10 knots. On arrival off Toward Point part company and proceed to Tobermory. E.t.a. Clyde 2359/10.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1711/7 to PELICAN).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Gaboon.

Gaboon situation report.
Arrival of ships containing food etc., and early resumption of wood shipments would wipe our recent past and Gaboon should rapidly take its place amongst loyal F.F. colonies.
(20 M.M, Brazzaville, 0900/7 to W.O.)

North Atlantic.

Azores.
ARK ROYAL.

F.O.C.N.A.0316/7, D.D.I.C. 0005/7 see 6/12. My 1501/5. Intend proceeding to sea in ARK ROYAL a.m. 9/12 to witness flying exercises, returning a.m. 11/12. (S.O. Force H. 0939/7 to Adty).

RAMILLIES.
ARGUS.
FURIOUS.
~~Ent.~~ Em.

RAMILLIES, ARGUS, KELVIN, ECLIPSE, VELOX, WRESTLER, ?FRANCONIA sail 1230/7 in accordance with Adty. 2222/5 and C.in C. S.A. 0959/3. R/V with FURIOUS, DIDO (position 1030 zone - 1, 9/12. VOLEX? part company? darkness 9/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1232/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

Force H.
Proposed
Operations.

Ref. Admty. 1615/6 and C.in C. Med. 1015/6. Force H. re composition and proposed operations. (S.O.Force H, 1351/7 to C.in C. Med).
(See Med. Volume.)

Military Transport.

Admty. 2324/14/11. Re passage of convoys (proposals). (S.O.Force H, 2105/7 to C.in C. Med.)

Operation.

My 1344/5. Suggested operation and request for battleship re-inforcement (S.O.Force H. 2218/7 to Adty).
(See Med. Volume).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
North Atlantic.

Suspicious Vessels. Azores.

Your 1824/6. These ships are not British (D.D.I.C. 0005/7 to N.A. Lisbon).

N.A.Lisbon's 1824/6 to be passed to you by F.O.C.A. SHEFFIELD proceed with despatch to Azores patrol. EDINBURGH is to proceed round San Miguel keeping out of sight of land and then in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 0140/6. (D.O.D.(F) 0031/7 to SHEFFIELD, EDINBURGH).

Suspicious Signal.

Following was read Gibraltar W/T time of receipt 2349/6 (begins) From GNKG please cancel my R R R,R (ends). As this message had a totally different note from R R R R received by Gibraltar W/T at 2303/6 from MAERSK and as no ship with signal letters can be found this cancellation should be regarded with suspicion. (F.O.C.N.A. 0033/7 to N.A. Station).

ROBERT MAERSK made distress signal when challenged by CIRCASSIA. The second vessel sighted was not identified. (D.O.R. 8/12).

Your 0033/7. An armed merchant cruiser from Western Patrol should investigate this matter. (D.C.0145/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.C.N.A. 0033/7. ROBERT MAERSK reported attacked by 2 ships at 2303/6 in 041° 00'N., 020° 22'W. Investigate and report. (F.O.C.N.P. 1214/7 to CIRCASSIA).

CANTON M.V. Intercepted.

Intercepted darkened small motor boat ship in position 029° 26'N., 021° 07'W at 0127 on course 120° not answering signal. Vessel altered to 110° and barely cleared convoy. Lost contact avoiding convoy. Am rejoining convoy.
(CANTON 0210N/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation Ration.

Your 1615/6. Request information whether anticipated operation RATION will be repeated at such frequent intervals as to provoke French retaliation and thereby (a) Make routing of future Eastern Med. convoys close to French North African coast undesirable. (b) Make if necessary to strengthen the close escort for forces on such occasions.
(S.O.Force H, 1303/7 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Attack on U/Boat.

Daily summary Operations. Aircraft on A.S. sweep sighted and bombed periscope in position 180 degrees Carnero Point 4 miles nil results. Destroyers dropped depth charges on doubtful contact. Nil results. (200 Group 1710/7 to Air Min).

South Atlantic.

Transport of French Foreign Legion.

1,200 French Foreign Legion with M.T. stores equipment etc., are to be moved as soon as convenient from Duala to Port Sudan. For the M.T. and stores N.C.S.O. Duala is holding French ship CASAMANCE. As INDO CHINOIS not available for conveyance of troops it is proposed to use CAPO OLMO. Arrangements. If suitable Admiralty has no objection to her inclusion in W.S.5A.
(D. of S.T. 0107/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

ENGLISH TRADER.

Ship is being sent to your assistance expected make contact A.M./11. Report to Freetown in Merchant Navy Code position at 0001 zone plus one 11/12 message being transmitted at that time (C.in C. S.A. 1004/7 to ENGLISH TRADER).

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE has had trouble with boiler tubes necessary have three days for boiler cleaning. Expect to sail 9/12 or 10/12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1015N/7 to Adty).

PAN EUROPE.

Overdue ship. (PAN EUROPE) due Port Elizabeth 3/12 from Singapore not Shameen.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1035B/7).

KENT.

My 1905/5. KENT is not degaussed.
(C.in C. S.A. 1101/7 to Adty).

Duala - Cotonou Cable.

Re. (G.O.C. West Africa 0930/7 to W.O)
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action on 5/12.

Action of CARNARVON CASTLE on 5/12 again emphasises importance of policy outlined in my letter 1453/125 of 30/10 and my 2005/22/11 especially as regards longer range guns.
(? ALCANTARA) now refitting hes guns with 14 thousand yards range and requires improved fire control, my 1931/27/11 refers.
(C.in C. S.A. 1207/7 to Adty).

Here public knowledge CARNARVON CASTLE approaching Monte Video arrives 2000 G.M.T. Unaware whether there are prisoners onboard. If so shall we voluntarily release them and announce fact forthwith to Uruguayan Gov., thus anticipating any probable application by German Minister for their release. You will recall that GRAF SPEE intended from first release prisoners here and that this was in fact done without demur on an application from me to Foreign Minister (Millington Drake, Monte Video, 1200/7 to Adty) (Reply 0309/9).

Arrived Montevideo 1900/7. Expect to sail 1900/10. C.in C. S.A. pass to R.A.S.A.D.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 19122/7).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Your 1415/28. PRETORIA CASTLE will be ready to sail p.m./14 after completion of repairs and Gunnery practice. Request instructions.
(N.O.I.C.Simonstown, 1215B/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

Seaward Defence Force. (A/S Vessels for Med.)

My 1831/3. Present position regarding seaward defence force A/S vessels is as follows. (1) Flotilla will be ready to sail from Durban on o/12. (2) Re-manning. (3) Request very early information whether these and other conditions outlined in my 1705/2 are acceptable.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 1233B/7).

French Seamen in CUBA.

Your 1947/2. Approved to give pocket money on following scales per month as from date of arrival:-
£5 to Officers, £3 to Ensigns, £3 to Petty Officers, £1 to other ranks. Special issue of service tobacco may be made. (Hd. of M. 1452/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1705/2. If personnel are transferred to R.N. there would be strong objections to paying them directly at S.A. rates. (arrangements) (Hd. of M. 1530/7 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

ARAWA.
MORETON BAY
Catapults.

Your 1205/6. Dates of completion communicated in my 2224/5 took into account the fact that catapults would not be fitted.
(D.O.D.(F) 1622/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

Cables.

Cable communication between Freetown and Duala is slow owing to necessity for routeing via Nigeria land lines in order to avoid Vichy territories.

2. General De Gaulle requests break in cables between Libreville and Port Gentil and between Port Gentil and Point Noire may be repaired at an early date. Proposals.
(C.in C. S.A. 2113N/7 to Adty).

Supplies for Army and R.A.F. in Greece.

Requirements. Present arrangements unsatisfactory.
(C.in C. M.E. 0845/7 to W.O.)

Mediterranean.

Transport. of A/C's.

My 1615/6, cancels first 2 sentences of my 1435/23/11. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1128/7).

Air Report.

Operational Summary 180 to 1200/7. Greece. A/C reported large number enemy warship North of Corfu at 1600 hours. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1206/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Spezia Docks. — Your 1835/3 and my 1439/6. Request aerial photographs may be forwarded. (D.N.I., 1602/7 to V.A.Malta).

REGENT PANDORA. — Operation B.S. Patrol orders. (Capt: S.1. 1701/7).

Suez Canal. — Your 1847/29. Desirable employees in Egypt should know the time position. H.M.A. Cairo taking up question. (Hd. of M, to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0017/7).

Cables. — Concur in S.O.Force H. 1629/1 operation by MIRROR. (C.in C. Med. 1148/7).

Convoy A.N.8. — Arrived Piraeus 1400/7. (N.C.S.O. Athens 1530/7).

Cost Defences. — C.in C. M.E. O 27285 of 24/11 W.O. recommended:-
Six-inch naval guns recently diverted to Haifa should be released to Turkey as originally intended. Diversion of two six-inch guns intended for Alexandria Barron (?scheme) to Mersa Matruh. Replacement of above should further six-inch guns become available. (? Concur). In present circumstances threat to ship borne attack on Haifa much reduced and Alexandria has adequate coast defence. Same deterent coast defences are desirable at Mersa Matruh.
(C.in C. Med. 1335/7 to Adty).

Intelligence - Rhodes. — From Greek consul at Rhodes released end of November. Consider food shortage is not sufficient to force capitulation for long time.

Intermittent air communication by night with Italy.

Military morale poor. Natives eagerly awaiting landings. During raid Kalato 3/9 they cut all wires from aerodrome spontaneously.

Satisfactory damage to aerodromes. Church at Leros which (? was) hit contained ammunition.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Intelligence - Rhodes. (Contd.)	Three rows of wire all vulnerable beaches. Last line well inland. Probably under water obstructions also. No A.T. obstacles on roads only wire barriers night. Tanks concentrated Soroni. Boom across harbour Rhodes; usually closed. (Wolffson, Beyoglu. 1430/7).
Naples Reconnaissance, Attack on Tripoli.	Combined services report up to 1700/7 All times G.M.T. 10.05 - 14.38 Glenn Martin Photo Recco. Naples, outer harbour 2 Battleships, 4 Cruisers, inner harbour several Destroyers in dry dock, 1 cruiser. 14.12 - (1538 11 Wellingtons attacking Tripoli due to return from 1745 onwards. No enemy air activity over Malta today no Naval or Military Items. (H.Q. Malta. 1700/7).
Greek A/S Training.	Re Adty. 1806/17/11 and tel. No. 1832 /23/10. (N.A.Athens 1930/7 to C.in C. Med.)
Greece.	2 Italian destroyers entered Jarsnda today (? about) 1100 and 2 more cover them outside port. (Heywood Mission. No T.O.O./7).
U.S.7.	Departure 0529Z/7 PERTH, 0842Z/7 CAPETOWN escorting U.S.7. (S.O.(I) Colombo 0958Z/7 to Adty). Sailing telegram. Escorts PERTH, CAPETOWN to 12° N., 45° E., thence Red Sea Force, S.O. CARLISLE. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1026Z/7).
B.S.10.	KANDAHAR left 0904/7 for B.S.10. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0911Z/7).
KISMAYU.	My 1120/17. Air photographs 6/12 show 16 ships, including ASKARI and KIONGA. Observer describes additional ships as tankers, but photos. not yet examined in detail. (C.in C. E.I. 10542/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Routes to M/V's.

For N.C.S.O. Routes given to merchant ships between any two ports (other than coast wise and voyages) are to be so ordered that full dispersion is achieved as soon after sailing as practicable, and is maintained until as close as practicable to port of destination.
(C.in C. E.I. 1102/7).

U.S. Convoys.

Military authorities are pressing for a decision as to whether all U.S. convoys will in future transhipp at Bombay or Ceylon . Can definite decision be given in view of my 0555/15/11.
(S.S.T.O.India (Bombay) 1108Z/7 to D. of S.T.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 178 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 8/12.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1907 to Air Min.)

China.

OLE JACOB. Raider.

Norwegian tanker. (in enemy hands). Sailed p.m./5 to westward.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 0431/7).
Consul-Gen., Kobe, reports Norwegian crew landed at Kobe while she was there. Description of raider which captured TEDDY and OLE JACOB and sunk AUTOMEDON in Indian Ocean.
(C.in C. China, 1621Z/7).

America and West Indies.

"Town" Class destroyers.

My 1138/6. Expect ROCKINGHAM (S.O.) and ROXBOROUGH to sail from St.John's N.F. on 10/12. Similarly routed.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 1109/7). Left Halifax for St.John's N.F.?).
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1900/7).

READING, RAMSEY, RIPLEY arrived here at 1700 G.M.T. today.
(N.O.I.C. St.Johns 1616/7).

COLOMBIA. Dutch to sail for U.K. in convoy and not independently.
(D.T.D. 1125/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

HERTFORD
Mined.

British ship HERTFORD struck a mine in position 035° 30' S., 135° 25'E at 1052z/7. Ship still afloat and no information yet available of casualties.
(A.C.N.B. 1300Z/7 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TEMPLAR.	Expected to leave Hamberg 30/11. (See Enemy Intelligence).
TULANE.	Reported fitting out as A.M.C. (See Enemy Intelligence).
MADRID.	Has taken in further supplies of coal and fresh provisions. (Consul, Las Palmes, 1730/7).
AUGSBURG.	Reported 6/12 to have disappeared from Daizen. (D.S.460).
REGENSBURG.	Taken oil from another German ship and entered harbour at Yokohama on 6/12. (D.S.460).
HAVELLAND.	At Yokohama, engines dismantled. (D.S.460).
BURGENLAND.	Re report (D.S.456) that BURGENLAND was being fitted with torpedo tubes.
SAWERLAND. SAARLAND.	Now reported that ship referred to is SAWERLAND. This ship arrived Hamburg on 10/8/39 from Far East, not reported since. The SAARLAND, 6725 tons, is, however, in Japanese waters and was reported sold to Japanese in October, 1940.(D.S.460).
SPEZIA ATLAS	Imminent departure. (Barcelona 1834/7).
?IDARWALD.	Intercepted message in Hapag Code DHNF ? IDARWALD to Hapag Agent Tampico. Begins Destroyers say neutrality patrol following me to limit of 300 including Gulf. Advise Berlin Everything will be done. (20(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1150/7).
HERMONTHIS.	My 1313/3/12 Believe HERMONTHIS intended to sail after completion of stores at 0300 G.M.T./2/12 and that proposed daylight sailing following day was bluff. (S.O.(1) Callao 1447/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO.	Left Valencia 6/12 for Genoa (Valencia 2330/7) Arrived from Valencia 7/12 (Barcelona 1834/7).
MAUROI CROCE	Arrived Barcelona from Genoa. (Barcelona 1834/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

FARM SUM.

Dutch. 5237 tons. 0838 52.11. N., 22.56 W., FARM SUM torpedoed.
(Base ship, Scapa 2144/7). Proceed to assist FARM SUM torpedoed in 52.11 N., 22.56 W., at 2147.
(C.in C. W.A. 2226/7 to HAVELOCK).

RAJAHSTAN. (torpedoed 2/12).

Arrived Rothesay 7/12 damaged forward. (D.O.R. 8/12).

BOTAVON (reported torpedoed 2/12)

Arrived Newport 7/12 undamaged. (D.S.460).

LOCH RANZA (torpedoed 2/12).

Cancel my 2204/6. No trace in War Reg. Return to assistance of LOCH RANZA.
(C.in C. W.A. 0012/7 to HELIOTROPE).

Your 0955/7 proceed Loch Indial to assist THAMES (Dutch tug) with LOCH RANZA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1246/7 to SEAMAN).

Report situation and whether Escort and tug SEAMAN have arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1750/7 to THAMES)

FORFAR
CONCH.
(torpedoed 2/12).

ST. LAURENT reports she has on board 3 officers and 17 ratings from H.M.S. FORFAR and 53 survivors from S.S. CONCH No casualties or cot cases. 0127/7.

Ships Attacked.
H.X.90.
(on 2/12).

H.X.90 preliminary investigation. 2000/1 APPALACHEE torpedoed, survivors picked up by LOCH RANZA. No escorts in company at this time. 0100/2 several ships hit about this time including MODAVIA in position 55° N., 18° 30'W. 0130/2 VILLE D'ARLON observed showing not under control lights. She dropped astern and was probably torpedoed about 0145. 0230/2 warship thought to be ST. LAURENT passed through convoy on course 120. 0300/2 Star Shell seen by EMPIRE PUMA and other ships fired from three directions astern for 20 minutes. No Liverpool escorts fired this but ST. LAURENT may have done. FORFAR torpedoed about this time in position 54° 35'N., 18° 18'W. Survivors state she fired Star Shell after being torpedoed. 1200/2 FOLKSTONE joined convoy in approx. position 55° 31'N., 16° 58' W.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Ships Attacked.
H.X.90.
(on 2/12).
(Contd.)

She was first escort to arrive, 1430/2 LOCH RANZA torpedoed but was probably astern of convoy. 1620/2 FOLKESTONE attacked contact and sighted periscope. Two and a half minutes later STIRLINGSHIRE torpedoed. 1630/2 MOLAVIA Captain sighted damaged U/Boat lying on its side which came awash three times and sank. This report is being further investigated but conclusion is that U/Boat fired torpedoes at STIRLINGSHIRE immediately before FOLKSTONE killed him. 2000/2 FOLKSTONE rejoined convoy. 2016/2 WILHELMINA torpedoed. FOLKSTONE lost convoy while searching U/Boat and did not rejoin until 0945/3. VISCOUNT jointed H.X. 90 before dawn on 3rd and was only escort. 0945/3 rejoined. Convoy attacked by Condor. VISCOUNT and convoy opened fire and aircraft then attacked WILLIAM HENDRICK 5 miles astern, which sank. 1600/3 FOLKSTONE and VISCOUNT counter attacked. MAGICIAN states he saw torpedoes approaching HARPEFJELL, but no hits.
(Capt: D. Liverpool 1521/7 to Adty).

Submarines Reported.
0830.

Sighted on surface 56.57 N., 21.42 W. (Lands End Radio, 0830/7).
U/Boat was in position 56.57 N., 21.40W., at 0730 G.M.T. today. Keep clear. (D.T.D. 1642/7 to C.B.M.S.Area 1 for PETER MAERSK) Italian seen on surface by LLANGIBBY CASTLE (D.5.460).

2040.

One submerged submarine bearing 170, 5 miles, course unknown, my position, 021, 39° N., 22° W., 47 (CIRCASSIA 2040/7).
U/Boat reported at 2040/7 in 39. 42N., 21.40 W., steering 170° 5 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2136/7) Probably Italian. (D.5. 460).

1310.

D.F. probable U/Boat 52.30N., to 53 N., 18.30 W., to 20° W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1345/7).

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.1 off Cape Spartel on 3rd is probably proceeding to Azores.
1 approaching Gironde from West of Portugal.
Possibly another off Portugal or Spain.
1 probably Italian was in 60° 30'N., 8° 54' W. at 1215/6.
1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

German. 1 probably approaching Lorient from Finisterre.
1 was in about 55° 20'N., 10° 40'W at 1853/6.
1 was about 52° N., 15° W., to 17° W at 0212/7.
1 may be about 60° N., 20° W.
1 may be still patrolling North of 61° N., and East of 20° W.
1 or possibly 2 more in N.W.Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
No news of the one which was S.W. of Cape de Verde Islands on 30th.
(D.D.I.C. 1239/7 V.A.S. 1511/7).

X.7566. Z.60 6/12.
Personnel for C.A.S. from SLESSOR.
Have best possible reasons for thinking that persons most directly concerned would be more than willing to contribute to the shipping situation on the following lines. Make available all remaining 103 old destroyers as and when we can make them. Ditto 45 reserve merchant ships amounting to 3 to 4 hundred thousand tons. Ditto about 125 French and Danish ships now in American ports amounting to about 4 hundres thousand tons. Authorities sale or transfer of ships from the U.States coastal and inter coastal trade. Initiate big (LINDI)? island scheme for building. Donovan will explain.
2016 Received from Air Ministry 1015/7.

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Portland.
4th M.A.S.B.
Flotilla.

With withdrawal next week of motor boat training flotilla to Northern waters no means will exist of meeting important local requirements such as interception of suspicious craft and all form of rescue work, for which this force has been utilised and for which with its essential speed it has proved of extreme value. I press for stationing forthwith a similar force at Portland observing that this is an eminently suitable base for operational work, and that maintenance for a force of equivalent numbers can be provided. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1227/8 to Adty).

F.O.I.C. Portland's 1227/8 and my 1243/7 to R.A.C.F. Now that Portland's cupboard is to be so bare much force is added to my proposal to base 4th M.A./.B. Flotilla there. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2237/8 to Adty).

Request you retain one third of 4th M.A.S.B. Flotilla for work at Portland and send remainder to Fowey to operate as C. in C. W.A. desires. Oerlikon Guns should not be removed. (A.C.N.S. H. 1753/8 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HUNTER.
Repatriation
of Survivors.

Following from N.A.
1. My 1544/23/10 . So far only six visas for transit through Russia have been obtained and chances of more seem rather remote.

2. Opportunity may occur to send some of 37 remaining men by sea passage to U.K. as crews of vessels referred to in Stockholm 1199/15/11.

3. Request your approval to make these arrangements and permission for naval ratings to receive same Bonus as Merchant Seamen, to be paid by steel control. (N.A. Stockholm 1550/7 to Adty).

PIORUN.

The Polish manned destroyer PIORUN has been allocated to your command and you are requested to report whether you consider she would be better employed with the Polish Division in the N.W. Approaches or with the Vth D.F. at Plymouth. (1st S.L. 2203/8 to C. in C. W.A.

/N. class.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Policy (continued).

N. Class. Destroyers for Mediterranean.

It has been decided that Captain D. VII and the N. Class Destroyers NAPIER, NIZAM, NESTOR, NORMAN and NORSEMAN, shall when ready for service, join the command of C. in C. Mediterranean.

Defence of U.K.

Dover Command. Invasion Signals.

Following pyrotechnic Signals now in force by sea and land in Dover Command (V.A. Dover 1115/8).

DELUGE

At 1130/8 (D.C. 1206/8) (D.C. 2003/8)
At 2330/8 (D.C. 2345/8).

Scapa.

Progress Report 8/12 (R.A. Scapa 2015/8).

Movements.

SANDWICH.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/8).

IGARUS

Arrived 0900 (F.O. Humber 0926/8).

FORMIDABLE.
BURNHAM
PIORUN
VIMY.

Your 1552/7. Have Escorts been detailed Request air protection also. (F.O.I.C. Belfash 0955/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
As no Destroyers available from my command, should be grateful if H.F. Destroyers could escort FORMIDABLE Belfast to Greenock. Departure being delayed for this till 10/12. (C. in C. W.A. 1322/8 to C. in C. H.F.)
Cancel my 1322. BURNHAM to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 0800/9 for Greenock. BURNHAM to Londonderry on completion. (C. in C. W.A. 1720/8 to C. in C. H.F.) My 2209/7. Proceed Belfast and (? Provide) addition escort for FORMIDABLE proceeding Clyde tomorrow. (R.A.D. H.F. 2115/8 to PIORUN, VIMY).

KING GEORGE V.
NORFOLK.
MATABELE, BEAGLE.
BULLDOG, PYTCHLEY.

Sailed Scapa 0951 for trails of KING GEORGE V. (A.C.O.S. 1003/8)
Arrived Scapa 1840 (A.C.O.S. 1910/8).

Brightlingsea.

Disposition of Patrols 8/12 (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1010/8 to C. in C. Nore)

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (continued).

FURIOUS
ARGUS
RAMILLIES
DIDO
COSSACK
CAIRO
SIKH
FRANCONIA
CALIFORNIA
ST. LAURENT
SKEENA
BRADFORD

Capt. D.4 in COSSACK with SIKH left Scapa 0900 to R/V with RAMILLIES, FURIOUS, CALIFORNIA, FRANCONIA (A.C.O.S. 1145/8.
CAIRO to leave Clyde 2300 today with CILICIA, ST LAURENT and SKEENA to R/V with DUNOTTAR CASTLE as in my 1710/7. CAIRO and Destroyer Escort to meet RAMILLIES and ARGUS at 1000/11 B.S.T. (C. in C. W.A. 1150/8).
FURIOUS and DIDO will R/V with RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, and 4 destroyers at 1030 Z + 1/9 in 37°50'N 17° 30'W. Whole Force expects arrive position A. 49° N 18° W. at 0900 Z -1/11. Arrange R/V for CALIFORNIA accordingly (D.O.D.F. 1303/8 to FOCNP).
Leave Patrol to R/V in 39° 17'n 17° 30' at 1630 Z - 1/9 with RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FURIOUS, DIDO for inward Escort to Clyde (F.O.C.N.P. 1520/8 to CALIFORNIA).

Routes. Ships for Clyde E.T.A. Clyde 1130/14 (C. in C. W.A. 1800/8). Your 1303/8. Route in my 1800/8 omit position A. (C. in C. W.A. 1822/8 to Adty).

Nore Command. — Movements to 1200/9 (C in C. Nore 1200/8).

WESTCOTT. — Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1235/8).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. — Sailed from Troon 1315 for Pensarth. E.T.A. Barry Roads 1030/9 (N.O.S.O. Ayr 1345/8).

Dover. — Dispositions for Night 8/9 (V.A. Dover 1402/8).

Orkneys. — Trawler Lines tonight, 5 Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1523/8).

Western Channel. — Night Report (C in C. W.A. 1552/8, 1711/8 and 1752/8).

Rosyth. — Movements tonight (C in C. Rosyth 1600/8).

MANCHESTER. — Is to proceed to Scapa C. in C. W.A. requested to route. (D.O.D.H. 1653/8).

WELLARD. — Arrived (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1719/8)

/14th A/S S/F.

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued.

14th A/S S/F. — Sailed N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1816/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

GURKHA
LEGION
LIVELY
LANCE. — On completion should be sailed to Scapa to work up and will subsequently join C. in C. W.A. for Escort Duties in N.W. Approaches. (1st S.L. 2254/8)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. — Your 1159/7 11th December. (C in C Portsmouth 1737/8 to Adty) Ship to be transferred to Rosyth for completion. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to sail from Portsmouth P.M. /11 routed northabout. A/S Escort by all available Destroyers of 5th D.F. and A/A protection by 4 HUNT-class Destroyers, and one A/A Cruiser from Cape Wrath to Rosyth. (1st S.L. 2116/8) Request maximum possible Air Escort (D.O.D. H. 2117/8 to Air Ministry).

Operations.

Operation P.V.1. — To destroy E.- Boats minelaying in Swept Channel. Particulars (C in C. Nore 1050/8) Proposed limits of Patrol C during times of Operation. (D. 16 1716/8 to C. in C. Nore) See Operations Volume.

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.
PUNJABI.
JUPITER. — To proceed at 1630 today to patrol between longitude of Eddystone and Wolf Rock keeping about 15 miles from coast, to destroy any Enemy Force that may threaten Convoy leaving Dartmouth westwards at 1700. Return Plymouth, passing 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0945/9 (C in C. W.A. 1255/8 to KASHMIR).

Operation
MONSOON. — Your 2140/7. If A/C can be loaded by 18th is there any reason why FURIOUS should not sail with convoy W.S. 5A on that day (1st S.L. 1352/8 to FURIOUS) If Escort adequate to permit cleaning 3 Boilers in time on passage, can be ready to sail (date) (FURIOUS 1544/8).

Iceland. — NORDKAPP arrived Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1640/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

STURGEON. Leave Patrol at 1800/9 Route. (Capt. S.6.0921/8).

O.21. Leave Patrol 1800/10. Route (s.q. 1213/8).

L.26. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.O.S. 1421/8).

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1433/8).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/9 (V.A.S. 1612/8 and 2158/8).

TAKU Your 0938/7. Connot make R/V till 0500/10 (TAKU 2045/8).

SUNFISH. Report. Occasional daylight patrols off Stadtlandet by 2 armed trawlers and occasional off shore night patrols. No air patrols. Traffic rounding Stadtlandet by day keep ½ mile off shore.

Sunk by torpedo, 1 merchant vessel 4000 tons off Stadtlandet 5/12. Attacked 1 merchant vessel off Bud 6/12 no hits. Attacked tanker 4000 tons off Stadtlandet 7/12 1 hit probable. (SUNFISH 2315/8 to S.6.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2244/30/11. STAB will be flown today (C in C. Rosyth 0730/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

YEWARCH. (British 827 Tons) Bombed off 89. Buoy. Requires immediate help. VALOROUS standing by (VERSATILE 0935/8 to N.O.I.C. Humber) Attacked by Heinkel at 1700/7 Ore emphatic no distinguishing marks (S.O.I. Humber 2100/10).

Convoy ARENA One A/C shadowing in 51° 58'N 1° 40'E (WALLACE 1019/8).

TREVERBYN. (British, 5281 Tons) Attacked in 55° 23'N. 14° 24'W (Lyness W/T 1021/8). Still attacked (Valentia Radio 1046/8).

Yarmouth. R.N. Barracks. Damage about 1200/7. Details (Works, Shotley Gate 1119/8).

/Stornoway.....

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (continued).

Stornoway. — Heinkel 111. Course 155° (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1216/8 to A.C.O.S.).

Dover. — A/C dropped 5 Bombs off Admiralty Pier and some Incendiary Bombs on Shakespeare's Cliff at 1745 today. No casualties or damage. (V.A. Dover 1858/8).

CARISBROOK. — (M/S Trawler) Has been damaged by A/C (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1850/8).

W. HENDRIK. — (British, 4360 Tons) Attacked and set on fire by A/C on 3/12, now reported to have sunk. (D.S. 460).

Mining.

Harwich. — Patrol H.O. reports heavy Explosion E. by N. of Patrol (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0024/9).

S.N. 10A. — Completed (R.A.M.L. 1120/8).

Falmouth — Open for steam-propelled Ships only. Precautions. (C. in C.W.A. 1242/8).

Thames Estuary. — Explosions and Fireworks Night 7/8. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1545/8).

Plymouth. — Since my 1825/6, S.A. Gear detonated Mine 338° Breckwater Fort 3.1. cables. 250 yards ahead of Sweeper. (C in C. W.A. 1705/8).

Buoying. of Mines. — (C. in C. H.F.1802/8).

? ARCHEOLOGY or ACTUALITY sunk. — Skipper H.M.T. CRAIGMILLAR reports upon arrival here vessel astern of him struck a mine position 3 miles S.W. from Mouse L.V. Vessel similar Dutch M/V COUFELD believed named ARCHEOLOGY or ACTUALITY. CRAIGMILLAR searched but found no survivors. Position buoyed, convoy escort informed by W/S. (C.O.I.C. Harwich 1812/8).

No explosion heard by Commander M/S Sheerness who was near (Capt. M/S Sheerness 2305/8).

MINNA. — (Examination Vessel) Engines seriously damaged by Mine in 319° Fidra Light, Firth of Forth, 1.82 miles. No casualties (C in C. Rosyth 2201/8).

/WINDSOR.

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (continued).

WINDSOR. Mined at 2004 in 52° 12'N 1° 53'E. Taken in tow by GARTH (C in C. Nore 2317/8 to Adty) Arrived Harwich 1352/9 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1352/9 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1357/9).

Enemy Intelligence.

SEAL. German Broadcast 7/12 claims SEAL commissioned for service as U.-Boat (V.A.S. 1147/8).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE ELK. (British, 4748 Tons) Engine disabled in 59°N 21°W. Require help. (EMPIRE ELK 0110/8 to Adty) Require assistance (EMPIRE ELK 1820/8 to Adty).

Formby Light Vessel. Now adrift from station after collision with unknown vessel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0223/8).

CURACOA Forecastle breakwater partly carried away and deck leaking. Am proceeding towards coast S. of Buchan Neso. (CURACOA 0544/8).

NAPIER STAR. (British, 10,116 Tons) In collision (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1005/8).

EMPIRE THUNDER. (British, 5965 Tons) Request you sail Tug ST. OLAVES to EMPIRE THUNDER reported in Tow of Trawler at 1200/7 in 53°4'N 10°56'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1221/8 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway). ST. OLAVES sailed. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1529/8).

LINCOLN. My 1337/8. Has defects which will probably take 48 hours to repair. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1751/8).

SCIMITAR. Damage dome. Requires docking. Request port (Capt. D. Londonderry 1900/8).

SHIRLEY H. (Barge) Have her in tow (WESTON 2051/8 to C. in C. Rosyth).

BROKE. Defect in port condenser. Request SALADIN relieve me early Monday AM. I may anchor, repair defect, and rejoin Convoy before dark (BROKE 2239/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

CALABRIA. Have searched in vicinity (CALABRIA) for 7 hours and found no trace. Am proceeding Londonderry to fuel. My p.c. and s. are 052° 43' 017° 24W 060° 12 knots Heavy westerly sea and swell. Weather, Force of Wind 8. HAVELOCK 1501/9).

MOST SECRET

8.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
W.N. 52	Code "Metric" escorts unappropriated. (N.O. S.O., Greenock 1043/8)
S.L. 56	Not met. Searched line of advance since 2000/7. My p.c.s. Weather. (HARVESTER, 1130/8 to C. in C., W.A.,) My 1555/7. In view of gale warning, BEVERLEY, BURNHAM to proceed Londonderry and await orders. (C. in C., W.A., 1348/8)
	S.L. 56 not met. Am in company with BULOLO who lost convoy last night. My position, fuel, weather. (HESPERUS to C. in C., W.A., 1504/8)
	If fuel permits and if in vicinity join S.L. 56 as additional escort, position (C, in C., W.A, 1648/8 to ST CROIX, NIAGARA, ST. CLAIR)
	On meeting S.L. 56 at 1000/9 I shall have 120 tons fuel remaining. Can remain with convoy only during daylight, 9/12. Submit in view of damage already sustained in gale HESPERUS should return to harbour now. (HESPERUS 2025/8 to C. in C., W.A.)
	My 1720/8 (BURNHAM to escort FORMIDABLE) and R.A.(D) H.F. 2115/8. On relief by PAORUN and VIMY as escort to FORMIDABLE, BURNHAM is to be sailed to join S.L. 56 (route) (C. in C., W.A., 2248/8 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)
C.E. 19	Intend to sail 1545/10 (C. in C., Nore, 1216/8)
O.B. 256	Sailed BROKE escorting O.B. 256. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1220/8)
H.X. 93	After turning over to RODNEY, proceed towards 54.34 N., 35.29 W., and search. (F.O.C., 3 B.S. 1306/8 to AURANIA) (See America & West Indies)
F.N. 53	Humber departure 8/12 19th M.S.Group to join F.N. 53 for Aberdeen at 1545 (F.O. Humber, 1653/8)
M.V's.	12 M.V's escorted by RUBY and BRANLEBAS (C. in C., W.A., 1255/8) Amended. Only 6 M.V's and RUBY have sailed. (C. in C., W.A., 1934/8)

/O.B. 255.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	**Shipping**
O.B. 255	Londonderry departure 8/12. VETERAN for O.B. 255 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1717/8)
Routes	South Atlantic (C. in C., S.A., 1737/8- see South Atlantic.)
F.S. 54	Reported at Nore 29 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1445/8)
A.S. 6	Arrived (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1058/8)
O.G.M. 47) O.B.M. 257)	Sailed 1430/8, 15 ships escorted by DERBY COUNTY. Sailed 1715/9, 14 ships escorted by LEEDS UNITED. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1549/8)
F.S. 56	Sailed 1400/8. 13 ships (N.C.SO. Methil)
W.N. 51	Sailed 1855/8. 11 ships (N.C.SO. Clyde Sub Office Greenock, 2014/8)
O.B.Convoys	Admiralty routes for O.B.Convoys. Orders. (D.T.D. 2251/8 to N.C.S.O. Glasgow)
H.X. 91	Shall be in position 058° N., 011° 20' W., at 0900/8. Request aircraft to assist search. Weather. (WALKER 0200/8 to C. in C., W.A.) An escorting BELLEROPHON course degrees 150 1 knots. VANSITTART and HONEYSUCKLE in company. BELLEROPHON reports convoy scattered. In view of gale warning consider it desirable already damaged destroyer to move south. Have heard or seen nothing of CANDYTUFT since gale of 5/12. Weather report. (WALKER 1500/8 to C. in C., W.A.) HONEYSUCKLE and CANDYTUFT are to proceed to search between 57° N., 10° W., 12° W., to round up any ships of H.X. 91. (C. in C W.A., 2016/8)
O.B. 254	My 1815/6. Master of BARON CARNEGIE ex O.B.O. 254 anchored in Islay damaged reports he is sailing for the Clyde. Will be off Mull of Kintyre at 1900/8. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1515/8)

/E.N. 38....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	**Shipping**
E.N. 38	17. Cancel my 1711/7 (PELICAN to escort SS MALGORA from Methil to Clyde) PELICAN to act as additional A.A. escort to E.N. 38 sailing from Methil at 2200/8. as far as Dunnet Head. Thence proceeding independently to Tobermory. E.T.A. Duncansby Head is 0830/10. Code word MISSION. FOWEY pass to GAVOTTE. (C. in C. Rosyth 1607/8)
E.N. 37	My 1600/8 (Movements tonight 8/9) E.N. 37 off Duncansby Head 1900 proceeding through Pentland Firth. (C. in C., Rosyth 1852/8)
O.B. 256	After making rendezvous with O.B. 256 return independently to Milford Haven. (c. in C., W.A., 2020/8 to ROSEMARY)
E.N. 38	H.M.T's PIROUETTE GAVOTTE additional escort FOWEY 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2315/8)
Slow F.S.	Difficulty has been experienced by slow F.S. Convoys in maintaining accurate time-table in heavy weather. Sometimes impossible with a following wind and sea to avoid arriving at Aldeburgh Light Float some hours before daylight. Request escort vessels may be informed that Orfordness light. Shipwash Light Vessel and Sunk Light Vessel can usually be exhibited for a limited time in emergency if asked for 4 hours before required. (C. in C., Nore. 2148/8 to C. in C., Rosyth)

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Indo-China.

Your 0441/5. Concur. (interception of French Naval Forces in Indo-China).
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0030/8 to C.in C. China).

OREGON
WYOMING.

My 1651/6. German safe conduct for OREGON and WYOMING not yet received. Ships should not be sailed from U.K. until further orders which may be expected in about one week.
(D.O.D.(H). 1304/8).

North Atlantic.

Operation
"RATION".

Your 1303/7. Until first Convoy has been intercepted and report asked for in my 1645/6 has been received it is not possible to answer your question. You must assume that it is not possible to provide additional Cruisers forces from outside the Mediterranean. This also applies to para. three of your 1351/7.
(D.O.D.(F) 0125/8 to F.O. Force H.)

C.S.18.
MANCHESTER.

My 2120/7. Intend sailing MANCHESTER for U.K. at 1600 today.
(S.O. Force H. 1214/8 to Adty).

C.S.18 in MANCHESTER sails 1600/8. (route).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1436/8).

Departure C.S.18 in MANCHESTER at 1600/8. Routed through 041° N., 019° W E.T.A. in this position 0230 zone minus one 10/12. Request onward routeing instructions.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1632/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Azores.

Situation report at 1200/9. All latitudes North all longitudes West, RAMILLIES, AROUS, FRANCONIA, FURIOUS, DIDO and four destroyers 38½ 17½ 3580 15. CALENDULA and ASPHODEL 43° 20° 180 10.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Azores. (Contd.)

SL 57 37° 20° 350° 8.
SL 57 (S) 341° 20° 355° 7.
DERBYSHIRE 41° 23° on patrol.
CIRCASSIA 40° 22° on patrol.
CALIFORNIA joining RAMILLIES.
SHEFFIELD patrolling accordance with A.T. 1758/6.
Four Whalers probably fuelling at Ponta Delgada.
Submarine reported in position 39° 22° at 2040/7.
(D.O.D.(F) 1824/8 to CACHALOT).

Anticipate SHEFFIELD can remain Azores patrol until dark 12/12 arrive Gibraltar daylight 15/12. Submarine suspected in position 037° 50'N., 022° 15' W., at 1000 /7 course unknown.
(SHEFFIELD 1955/8 to Adty).

JERSEY.

Gibraltar departure 2200/8 JERSEY for Plymouth E.T.A. 0900 zone - one 11/12. (Route).
(F.O.C.N.A. 2232/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.

Transports. Convoy C.M.7.

For troops from S.Africa to East Africa. Details of arrangements. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 1051/8, 1212/8).

French Seamen.

My 1530/7, request earliest possible reply. Is difficulty anticipated in obtaining volunteers if these terms are offered?
(Hd. of M. 1127/8 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

CALVO SOTELO.

My 1202/6. Author now informs me that passengers in Spanish Sloop CALVO COTELO were 8 anti-British Frenchmen 7 of whom were sailors from French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE, not 11 Germans.
(S.O.I. Freetown. 1134/8 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Raider Action, 5/12.

From analysis of reports it appears possible that raider engaged by CARNARVON CASTLE may be LEVANTE of ATLAS-LEVANTE line or similar ship. (Description) (D.D.I.C. 1146/8).

CAPO OLMO TOUAREG.

Your 0107/7. Re transport or remaining 600 Free French.
(N.C.S. & Duala 1929/8).

Repairs to CARNARVON CASTLE.

Important to know state of CARNARVON CASTLE on leaving for Montevideo and urgency of docking and refit. Alternatives are Simonstown, which is not desirable owing to size of ship, Durban, or U.K., Freetown If latter alternative ship might be used for Convoy escort unless efficiency too much impaired.
(C.in C. S.A. 2031/8 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

ENTERPRISE, CUMBERLAND, NEWCASTLE.

Your 1015N/7. My 1436 Z/30. So as to permit essential visit of ENTERPRISE to Montevideo and my transfer to CUMBERLAND, request NEWCASTLE be sailed as early as possible so as to arrive in K 33 not later than 14/12 with as much fuel remaining as possible. NEWCASTLE should then patrol K.33 (c) and (d).
(R.A.S.A.D. 1310Z/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

My letter 352 of 30/11. H.M. Minister at Montevideo telegram 1904, 6/12 to C.in C. Africa. My visit in ENTERPRISE must depend on general situation. Most likely dates 12th to 14th/12.
(C.C.S.A.D. 1431Z/8 to S.O.I. Montevideo).

ARAWA MORETON BAY.

My 1622/7. Change of priority should now enable ARAWA to complete 24/12 exact date for MORETON BAY cannot be given until ship is taken in hand.
(D.O.D.(F) 1610/8).

HIDLEFJORD, Raider Report.

Following has been read: QQQQ Merchant Vessel Raider, from HIDLEFJORD. Fired on by mysterious ship 5 20 N., 12 33 W. 8 miles off. T.O.R. 1511N/8.
(Freetown 1730/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Operation "Monsoon". Adty. 1142/7. May be found possible to sail FURIOUS for operation Monsoon (date) Request you arrange for either DELHI or DRAGON to escort FURIOUS from Freetown to Takoradi and back to Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1832/8).

PAN EUROPE. My 1035/7. (overdue ship). PAN EUROPE arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1930B/8).

Shipping Routes. Amendments to his 0908/22/11/40. Route for Merchant ships sailed independently from South Atlantic ports to U.K. direct. (C.in C. S.A. 1737/8 to S.O.I's Freetown, Capetown.)

Mediterranean.

R.C. Tripoli. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 0745/8, H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1705/8).

Dodecanese - Intelligence. B.2. report up to 26/11. (a) Italian warships Dodecanese active between Leros Patmos Caidaro (b) Italian auxiliary vessels on night patrol came close to Samos (c) confirms shortage of food Dodecanese (d) German cOnsul Samos probably passing information (e) Some indication of smuggling Turkish vessels with which I am dealing. (Wolffson 1025/8).

Naples. Air recco. 7/12. Details. (V.A.Malta 0945/8).

Italian Mines. New types of moored contact mines recovered. (V.A. Malta 1125/8).

BULLFINCH. Your 1645/24/11. Date of arrival E. Med. Possible second vessel will be required permanently in Med. (b) Re Port A/S Officer Alexandria. (Hd. of M. 1356/8 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

MALAYA. My 1349/7. If you concur para.2(b) consider MALAYA should pass through Narrows not later than (date) since M.T. ships leaving U.K. will pass Gibraltar (date). (S.O. Force H. to C.in C. Med. 1912/8).

Transport of aircraft. S.O. Force H. 1844/8 See Med. Vol.

Valona Combined. Operational Summary No.181 to 1200/8. Greece. Day 7/12. Following are results of attacks on Valona. 0915 hours. 8 Blenheims hit 1 large ship remainder of bombs bursting in Dockyard area. 1320 hours. 8 Blenheims despatched to bomb harbour but only 2 reached target owing to exceptionally bad weather conditions. Bombing results unobserved. 2 Blenheims crashed in Greek territory. 1445 hours. 6 Blenheims despatched to attack harbour. Results unobserved owing to cloud and enemy fighter interception. 3 Blenheims failed to return. Reconnaissance of Corfu-Valona area revealed a large number of transports and merchant vessels newly arrived Valona. These probably incorrectly described as warships in my A.847 7/12. Large number of ships including transports observed disembarking troops at Krionero (40° 25'N., 19° 20'E. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1214/8).

Troop Transports.

PEARLEAF. C.in C. E.I. 1754/6. (Re formation of Force T). As C.in C. E.I. wants Oiler PEARLEAF so badly I can/do without her for the present.
(C.in C. Med. 1507/9).

Enemy Convoy. My 1703/29/11. Large Convoy escorted by several destroyers left Trieste 7/12 for Albania. (B.2.)
(Capt: S.I. 1721/8 to TETRARCH, TRITON).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Submarines, Personnel.

Adty. 1228/29 and my 1372/SM 9 of 10/10, para.3 propose that after arrival at Gibraltar each of these submarines in turn shall proceed to Portsmouth as soon as practicable between and without prejudice to patrols in order to adjust complement, observing that many ratings in the 1st Flotilla have been abroad for nearly four years. If approved in principle request C.in C. Med. may be informed that this opportunity will occur and that the crews of these submarines should be adjusted accordingly before departure for Gibraltar.
(V.A.S. 1241/8 to Adty).

Operation off Mersa Matruh.

Movements summary No.174. TERROR, APHIS, LADYBIRD supported by JERVIS JANUS NUBIAN operating off coast west of Mersa Matruh.
(C.in C. Med. 2127/8).

East Indies.

Kismayu, Japanese Ship.

Information has been received that a Japanese ship with a cargo of petrol heavy and machine oils arrived at Kismayu on 19/11. Report dates on which COLOMBO was on patrol off this port.
(1st S.L. 0212/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

Adty. 0212/8. COLOMBO 8/8 to 14/8 and 20 to 24/8, c/10 to 12/10 on 14/11, then from 17 to 20/11 and again 26 to 28/11. CERES from 29/11 to 1/12. All dates inclusive. No shipping seen on the move at any time during these periods. Patrols and reconnaissances were also made off Mogadishu in September October and November.
(C.in C. E.I. 1716/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

WESTRALIA. WESTRALIA is to leave Colombo at 0300Z/9 and proceed to position 005° N., 092° E., and then patrol between this position and 001° N., 077° E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0816Z/8).

RANCHI. My 1456/6. Leave patrol so as to arrive Colombo 0230Z/10.
(C.in C. E.I. 0820Z/8 to RANCHI).

CERES. On completion fuelling Mahe proceed patrol off Kismayu adjust speed to arrive patrol area a.m./12. N.O.I.C. Milindini inform Nairobi.
(C.in C. E.I. 1020Z/8 to CERES).

SOUTHAMPTON, Kismayu patrol. My 0634/5. Cancel reconnaissance of Mogadishu. SOUTHAMPTON adjust speed now so as to arrive off Kismayu about one hour before sunset on 10/12. Keep outside hundred miles from shore while on passage. Two ships recently arrived at Kismayu and on 6/12 were lying almost midway between Mtanga Yo Papa and Kismayu Island at Northern end of Southern anchorage. If still there, they are to be sunk if this can be done without unduly risking your ship.
(C.in C. E.I. 2114Z/8 to SOUTHAMPTON).

Aircraft engines. Requirements.
(C.in C. E.I. (0822Z/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French ships. — Reported. 1. D'ENTRECEASTEUX is en route to Indo China and will be followed by MIN and CAPPADARAN (presumably from France).
2. French ship SONTAY will be loading about middle November for France as well as Madagascar.
Independent source confirms (two) and gives date of sailing 24/11.
(N.C.S.O. Saigon 0340Z/8).

Free French Representative. — Your 107 7/12. My opinion of S. Re his contemplated visits to gain first hand information. (C.in C. China, 0511Z/8 to Brit. Embassy Shanghai).

AUTOMEDON (sunk by raider 11/11). — Following message received from seaman of OLE JACOBS which was captured by German raider in Indian ocean:- from Chief Engineer, AUTOMEDON. Ship shelled, (corrupt group) and sunk 11/11. Killed. (list) Rest safe and prisoners on board raider
(Consul Gen. Kobe, 0320Z/8 to Adty).

TEDDY. — My 1621/7. Re description of raider which captured TEDDY in Indian Ocean. Norwegian tanker TEDDY was rubsequently sunk.
(C.in C. China, 0443Z/8 to Adty).

Shipping Routes. — C.in C. East Indies 1102/7/12. Routes for Merchant ships. I have given similar instructions.
(C.in C. China, 0425Z/8).

America and West Indies.

Loop Laying. — Your 1051/28 and 1433/4. Tugs are urgent, proceed with alteration to Whaler.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1002/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

H.X.94. — 20 ships. Names. (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1121/7)

B.H.X.95. — Departure. Ocean escrot VOLTAIRE returning to Halifax. Route.
(N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1123/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Canso Examination Service.

W.J.A.20. An examination service will be established in Straits of Canso on 22/12. Instructions to ships.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1129/8 to S.O.I. Capetown).

U/Boat Tactics.

Your 1919/6. Re U/Boat attacks on Atlantic convoys. Neither N.C.S.O. Bermuda or myself have had any previous information regarding current (Tactics) of U/Boats except instructions contained in Adty. 1645/22/11.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/8/to Adty).

AURANIA. "Town" class Destroyers.

After turning over H.X.93 to RODNEY proceed towards position 054° 34'N., 035° 29'W., and search for ST. CROIX, NIAGARA and CLAIR. ST. CROIX reported hove to with weather damage at 0404/8 in this position and out of touch with NIAGARA and ST. CLAIR. Break W/T silence as necessary when clear of convoy to report E.T.A. in area.
(F.O.3 B.S. 1306/8 to AURANIA).

S.C.15.

34 ships. Names and cargoes.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.1535/8).
Sailed 1400 G.M.T./8. Route.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1828/8). Draft sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 1412/8).

DIOMEDE.
CALADOC.
VAN KINSBERGEN.

If IDARWALD still unlocated DIOMEDE proceed position 019° 25'N., 084° 20'W., by 0600 R/9 ready to continue search at dawn. CARADOC on completion of fuelling proceed towards 024° 00' N., 083° 00' W., making good 15 knots. Netherlands Gunnery Training ship VAN KINSBERGEN remain off Havana for the present conserving fuel as much as possible.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1701/8 to DIOMEDE etc.)

B.H.X.86.

17 ships. Names. (Bermuda 1201/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

MONOWAI AORANGI.	MONOWAI left Suva 1800Z/8 escorting AORANGI until 0600Z/10. Then proceeds on patrol to Northwest of Fiji Islands to cover shipping. (G.W.R. Wellington, 2218Z/8).
Raider Attack.	On shipping off Naura 8/12. (See 9/12).

MOST SECRET

8.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

IDARWALD
Intercepted by
DIOMEDE

Have intercepted IDARWALD. Ship abandoned and on fire in position 021° 43' N., 084° 08' W., Am going alongside to assist salvage. (DIOMEDE, 1447B/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Orders to DIOMEDE, etc., if IDARWALD still unlocated (C. in C., A.W.I., 1701/8- See America & West Indies)

Your 2015Z/8 (No trace in War Reg.) Plane sighted and circled IDARWALD then passed close to DIOMEDE position 021° 43' N., 084° 08' W., at 2200Z. Not seen since. (DIOMEDE, 1643/8, to N.O.I.C. Kingston)

Regret exceedingly to report that ship has opened fired with Lewis Gun from Bridge ahead of the boats, the after Lewis Gun opened fire without orders at boat killing four and wounding five, one very seriously. (DIOMEDE, 2131/8, to C. in C., A.W.I.)

AUGSBURG

My 0431/7. Dairen reports German crew are ashore, ship presumed transferred to Japanese flag. (C.O.S., Singapore 0541Z/8)

NORDERNEY

Para reports NORDERNEY has moved from anchorage to dock to load bunker coal. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1339Z/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 2100/7. Inform master of LOCH RANZA that he should sail as soon as practicable as tugs will have to be withdrawn shortly for other work. Crew of LOCH RANZA not required for passage may be accommodated in tugs if desired.,(F.O.I.C Greenock, 1057/8 to THAMES)

Sailed from Islay noon today, towing LOCH RANZA 7 knots expected time of arrival Rothesay tomorrow morning. SEAMAN standing by to carry out assistance. (THAMES 2140/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

DJURDJURA

French 4070 tons S/M Raider Signal. Following has been read. SSSS 53.06 N., 22.00 W., unknown vessel. (Valentia Radio T.O.R. 1637/8 G.M.T.)

Following has been read: SSSS 53.06 N., 22.00 W., DJURDJURA followed by submarine (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 1645/8)

FARMSUM
(Torpedoed 7/12)

No trace of FARMSUM and search has also been made for ship reporting being followed by submarine in a position to 052° 27' N., 022° 00' W., at 1735/8. Intend locating convoy S.L. 56., though route given in your 1648/8 differs from that in your 1555/7. It is essential to fuel in Loch Foyle on 12th December latest. Weather. (HAVELOCK 2001/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

FARMSUM not found in contact HAVELOCK proceed to assistance of CALABRIA torpedoed in position 052° 43' N., 018° 07' W., at 2007 HESPERUS continue search for convoy S.L. 56. (C. in C., W.A., 2022/8 to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS)

CALABRIA

(Swedish 1277 tons) Following has been read SSSS 52.43 N., 18.07 W., CALABRIA torpedoed (Lyness T.O.R. 2020/8)

Request you will sail Tug PRUDENT to assistance of CALABRIA torpedoed in position 52° 43' N., 18° 07' W., at 2010 todsy. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2259/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

/EMPIRE JAGUAR.....

MOST SECRET

8.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

EMPIRE JAGUAR — British 5186 tons. The following has been read. 51. 34 N., 17.35 W., EMPIRE JAGUAR Torpedoed (Plymouth 2339/8)

H.X. 90 (Attacked 2/12) — Your 1521/7. Incident at 0230/2. Enquiry shows that ST. LAURENT did not pass through convoy at any time and was not in sight of any ships at 0230/2. At 0530/2, 6 or 7 merchant ships steering 070° passed about 4 miles ahead of ST LAURENT who was steering 320° Further enquiry is to be made to clear up this incident. (C. in C., W.A., 1938/8 to Capt. D. Liverpool)

Tactics of U-Boats — A case has recently occurred of one of H.M.Ships sighting an object in waters where U-Boats were known to be operating and maintaining her zig-zag course and her speed until torpedoed 23 minutes later.

2. Following information on tactics now being adopted by U-Boats is promulgated for information (Abridged)

3. Reluctance to attack any ship under escort in daylight hours.

4. Where their speed permits U-Boats may be expected to shadow a likely target during daylight hours.

5. Attacks at night (Procedure)

6. U-Boats are not deterred by severe weather conditions from attacking on the surface. The latest U-Boats are probably fitted with some form of R.D.F. as an aid for locating their targets at night.

7. U-Boats will not dive at night unless forced to do so.

8. A pyrotechnic signal from a U-Boat after firing torpedoes should be taken to indicate the presence of another U-Boat.

9. Maintenance of an efficient look-out particularly abaft the beam of vital importance. A turn away at full speed from any object sighted should be effective in avoiding attack. (D.A.S. 0130/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0012 — D.F., probable U-Boat 53.30 N., to 54.00 N 17° to 19° W., (D.D.I.C. 0057/8)

1137 — D.F. Italian U-Boat., 50°-51° N., 15° -17° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1228/8)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- One has arrived on patrol in Azores area and may have been in 59° 40' N., 21° 35' W., at 2040/7.
1 should reach Gironde today.
1 in 51° N. to 52° N., 15° W to 17° W., at 1137/8 is probably bound for Gironde.
1 may still be in vicinity of Faroe Bank.

German- 1 about 52° 30' N., 19° W., at 1310/7.
1 about 54° N., 17° W., to 19° W., at 0012/8
1 may have been in 57° N., 21° 42' W., at 0930/7.
1 in area 60° N., to 62° N., 17° W., to 20° W.
1 in about 55° 20' N., 10° 40' W., at 1855/6 is probably patrolling within 120 miles of Bloody Foreland.
The U-Boat in Cape Verde Islands area on 30/11 is probably now northbound.
(D.D.I.C. 1411/8)

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Fishing hours in Moray Firth — On account of short days, hardship to fishermen and to increase food supplies request approval to allow fishing vessels to leave harbours in Moray Firth one hour before sunrise instead of at sunrise provided they steer directly away from the coast and are darkened until sunrise. Request early reply. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1001/9 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/9 (D.C. 1147/9) At 2330/9 (D.C. 2330/9).

Movements.

FURIOUS
DIDO — Amend A.T. 1303/8 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1822/8 (D.O.D.F. 0013/9 to F.O.C.N.P.)

KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER. — Sailed Plymouth 1650/8 (C in C. W.A. 0028/9).

Nore — Dispositions for Night 9/10 (C. in C. Nore 0800/9).

SABRE. — Sailed E.T.A. Belfast 1600/9 (N.O.I.C.

FORMIDABLE.
PIORUN.
VIMY. — My 1712/6. Departure delayed by weather. Intend sail her 2030/9. ETA. Clyde 0900/10 (FOIC BELFAST 1030/9) Cancel my 2358/8 (C in C W.A. 1410/9 to HQFC) Sailed ETA Clyde 0800/10 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2100/9).

QUEEN ELIZABETH. — Adty. 2116/8. 2 Destroyers will be provided from Nore and 2 from Portsmouth (C. in C. Nore 1116/9 D.21 1402/9) Request you consider use of a distant screen of M.A./S Boats, arranging with C. in C. W.A. (ACN.S.H. 1235/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 1116/9. 2 Destroyers detailed are to leave Sheerness PM/10 so as to pass North Goodwin at dusk. Route to Nab Tower at 0800/11. (C in C. Nore 1510/9 to D.21). To allow time to sweep long Approach Channel request ship may arrive off Beamer Rock at 1330/14. Request ETA May Island be signalled. (C in C. Rosyth 1550/9 to Adty). R/V for H.F. Destroyers 52° 28'N. 5° 28'W at 1600/12. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to amend R/V if necessary. (C in C. W.A. 2016/9 to C. in C. H.F.) Request you sai

/Destrc

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH (continued).	Destroyers accordingly. CURACOA to provide A/A Escort from Cape Wrath to Rosyth (C. in C. H.F. 2231/9 to R.A.D.) Request full action on Adty. 2117/8. (Air Ministry 1810/9 to Fighter Command).
MANCHESTER.	Left Gibraltar 1600/8. Route to Scapa. (F.O.C.N.P. 1620/9).
ROYAL SCOTSMAN.	Your 1507/7. Proceeding P.M. today as ordered (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/9 to Adty).
SKUDD VI. POLAR V.	Your 1124/5 To be sailed by following route to Freetown (C. in C. W.A. 1248/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
HURRICANE.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1445/9).
PELICAN.	My 1741/7 ETA now PM/10 (C in C. Rosyth 1501/9 to WESTERN ISLES).
Northern Patrol.	Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/9).
KING GEORGE V. MATABELE, BULLDOG. ELECTRA.	Left Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1740/9).
EDINBURGH.	To avoid possible U-Boats keep West of 24°W till North of 57°N. (C in C. W.A. 1808/9 to EDINBURGH).
HARVESTER.	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1929/9).

Operations.

Operation. SPECIMEN.	F.O.I.C. Belfast to sail PEGASUS to join O.G. 47 at a R/V arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool. As no additional sloop is available, Leith is to detail a corvette to attend on PEGASUS during flying operations. (C. in C. W.A. 1133/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) R/V at 1325/10 in 000° Altacarry 8 miles (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).
Patrol AX.	2 A/S Trawlers to patrol AX (C. in C. W.A. 1446/9 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

/Operation MONSOON. .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Monsoon"

Cancel previous instructions.
1. FURIOUS is to be sailed on 13/12 with W.S. 5 A Fast for Operation "Monsoon".

2. Arrangements as in my 1852/5 hold good, except that forty Hurricanes with wings off and nine Fulmars are to be embarked. Six Skuas are to be retained.

3. Boiler cleaning party will be provided.

(A.C.N.S. (H) 1700/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation MONSOON	Cancel previous instructions. FURIOUS to be sailed on (date) Re aircraft. (A.C.N.S. H. 1700/9 to C. in C., W.A.) See Operations Volume.
Landing Exercise at Lanlash	One Corvette to be sailed to Lanlash forthwith to receive orders from CO.GLENGYLE. She will be required for about one week. (1at S.L. 1745/9 to C. in C., W.A.) Arrange with Capt. D. to comply with Admty. 1745/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1933/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Submarines

TAKU	Delayed. R/V 300° Longships Light 5 miles at 0845/10 (S.2.0514/9 to CUTTY SARK) My 1612/8 Amend position of TAKU as follows (V.A.S. 1029/9)
UPHOLDER	V.A.S. 1258/5. Intend sail for Gibraltar at 1400/10. Route. (S.5. 0849/9 to Admty.)
UPHOLDER UNIQUE USK	Following Total Bombing Restrictions arranged. (S.5 1001/9 to UPHOLDER) UPHOLDER leaves Portsmouth 1400/10 and UNIQUE and USK at 1400/11 for Gibraltar. Routes (S.5 1635/9)
Bay of Biscay	To intercept Enemy vessels using Biscay Ports, the following temporary Patrol Zones are established. My 1103/28/10 to S.2. only is cancelled. Instructions. Spanish territorial waters are not to be violated. (V.A.S. 1512/9 to S. 2.)
URGE TROUBADOUR	Sailed TROUBADOUR to arrive Barrow 0830/10 as escort for URGE to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1532/9)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0800/10 (V.A.S. 1629/9)
L. 26	Will leave Scapa 1530/10 for Dundee, escorted by THIRLMERE (A.C.O.S. 1824/9)

/Bombing.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Bombing Restrictions — Institute Total S.B.R. in Holyhead 0830 to 1730 daily from 10 to 14/12 inclusive and in Portsmouth Area 1530 to 1830 10 and 11/12. (H.Q.C.C. 1910/9)

British Air Activity

East Coast — 2 Blenheims from Dyce Patrol East Coast to Flamborough Head and return 0830 to 1230 today. (C. in C., Rosyth 0738/9)

Patrols — My 2244/30/11. STAND and HORNLI will be flown today. (C. in C., Rosyth 0754/9) HORNLI cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., 1258/9)

Hatston — Your 1539/5. R.A.N.A.S. proposes that 816 and 825 Squadrons move to Hatston about 15/1. Admty. Concurs with this. (5th S.L. 1931/8 to C. in C., H.F.)

Destruction of Enemy A/C off Irish Coast. — Enemy long range aircraft operates off the south west coast of Ireland. It is intended to intercept and destroy this aircraft and one section of Blenheims is to patrol between Old Head of Kinsale and Fastnet from 0930/10 to 1100 hours. Keeping within visibility distance of Irish Coast but outside territorial waters. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1947/9 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

ST. ROGNVALD — (British, 1069 tons) Attacked off Sumburgh (Wick Radio 1055/9)

Deptford — Late p.m/8 two H.E. and many incendiariary bombs dropped. Some damage and fires (Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1130/9)

London — Port of London Authority Building hit at 2140/8 by heavy H.E.Bomb. Serious damage and fire. No Naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. London 1200/9)

A/C over Irish Ports daily — Your 1817/7. Irish witnesses declare A/C German, but marking not seen by English witnesses (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1207/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Unst

Following received from N.O.I.C. Lerwick begins:- Aircraft which attacked St. ROGNVALD later flew over Unst machine gunning Burra Firth, Haroldswick and Skaw. No damage or casualties reported so far but A.E.S. No 4. and R.A.F. station at Skaw attacked. (A.C.O.S. 1306/9)

Mining

Off Aldeburgh

Mine detonated by WINDSOR at 2004/8 in 52° 11' N., 1° 54' E. (WINDSOR 0007/9)

Sheerness

2 mines detonated and 2 loud explosions heard. Report by Group Officer in MILFORD PRINCE (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1001/9 to C. in C., Nore)

Operation Z.M.E. 5.

To be carried out on night 10/11 or as soon after as possible for 7 miles 119° from 51° 16' N., 5° 52' W., (D.O.D.M. 1149/9 to C. in C., W.A., and ADVENTURE)

Firth of Forth

Mine exploded at 1300 in 56° 1' N., 2° 22' W No damage to ship. (WOLSEY 1305/9 to C. in C., Rosyth)

MINNA
(Mined 8/12)

Details. Towed to Albert Wharf, Leith. No casualties. (C. in C., Rosyth 1530/9)

Tyne.
SS HINDPOOL
Mined

HINDPOOL (British, 4897 tons) mined at T.I. Buoy (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1317/9) Port closed owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1319/9)

Bristol Channel
SS ROYAL SOVEREIGN
Mined

At 1142/9 a Mine detonated by ROYAL SOVEREIGN (British 1527 tons) in 51° 23' 46" N 3° 8' 51" W., (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1805/9)

OSLOFJORD
(Mined 1/12)

Now reported total loss (D.S. 462)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Stavanger	3 M/V's and 2 Destroyers off Stavanger at 1315 steering N. at 8 knots. A/C report. (V.A.S. 1508/9)
BISMARCK EMDEN	Battleship BISMARCK was reported to be between Danzig and Swinemunde proceeding west on 24/11(B.2.) A cruiser with two funnels is reported to have been in dock at Danzig on 26/11. (C.2.) This cruiser may be EMDEN. (D.D.I.C. 1827/9)
Bordeaux	At 2040/8 a ship burning in River Garonne just South of Dock Entrance (B.C. Int Summary No 590)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE — (British 15,000 tons) Damaged by collision with MANCHESTER CITY in 55° 31' N., 6° 34' W No 4 hold flooded. Returning Belfast. E.T.A. 1115/9. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 0802/9 and 0910/9) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1325/9)

BREADWINNER — (Motor Cobble P.D. 215) Sunk by collision with Motor Patrol Yacht BRACKEN in Peterhead Harbour at 1715/7. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0700/9

SHIRLEY — (Barge) Left derelict by Tug FAIRPLAY I and towed into Tyne by WESTON. Inquiry by D of S.T. proposed (C. in C., Rosyth 1339/9 to N.O.I.C. Leith)

MANCHESTER CITY — (British 5600 tons) Damaged in collision with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Cannot use anchor Proceeding to Clyde. (MANCHESTER CITY 0915/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

P.C. 74 — Arrived with A/S gear out of action. Sails 1800. (F.O.I.C. Milford 0925/9)

EMPIRE EAK — Request you sail Tug BRIGAND to assist in 59° N., 21° W., at 0110/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1004/9 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway) Cancel my 1004/9 Ship now able to proceed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2125/9)

WALKER
VANSITTART — E.T.A.Liverpool 0900/10. WALKER has following major defects, and VANSITTART considerable upper-deck damage (WALKER 1040/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

GARLAND — Arrived with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1253/9)

YEWARCH
(Bombed 7/12) — Arrived in tow of Tug SCOTSMAN at 1115/9 (F.O.Humber 1130/9)

Knob Light Vessel — Your 1506/7. Inquiries are being made. (C. in C., Nore, 1441/9 to Admty.)

/ST MERRIAL....

MOST SECRET

9.12.1940
Monday.

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS-Contd.

ST.MERRIEL VAV	Superficially damaged by collision at 0100/9 South of May Island. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1559/9)
MIKOKLIS	(Greek, 3576 tons) Anchored off St. Johns Point, Donegal Bay. Proceed to assist her to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. GReenock 1643/9 to ENGLISHMAN) Am proceeding (ENGLISHMAN 1820/9 to F.O.I.C. GReenock)
AGHIA EIRINI	Proceed with despatch to assist in 54° 6' N 18° 18' W., at 1212/8 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2155/9 to MARAUDER) Sailed MARAUDER from Campbeltown at 2322. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to C. in C., W.A.)
SS VILLE D'ARLON Overdue	(Belgian 7555 tons) New York to Liverpool in Convoy H.X. 90, is reported by Lloyds much overdue and is believed lost (D.S.462)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

Estimated positions 0900/9 (D.T.D. to C. in C., H.F., 1347/9)

W.N. 50

Passed 58° N., at 0230, speed made good 8 knots. (KING SOL to A.C.O.S. 0231/9)

1520/9 BROADWAY, GLEANE left Scapa to R/V (A.C.O.S. 1706/9)

E.N.

Following from KINGSTON ONYX 0100/9 57° 50' N 10° 46' W., course 130° Suggest R/V with E.N. convoy E. of Barra Is. 0111/9. (S.O. Northern Trawlers 0247/9 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Your 0111/9. Concur. ENDEAVOUR to R/V with E.N. convoy in daylight (S.O.N.T. 0249/9 to KINGSTON ONYX)

F.N. 59

Departure 9/12 for Harwich BASSET with F.N. 55 (N.C.S.O. Thames 0931/9)

H.X. 95

AUSONIA ocean escort returning to Halifax (R.A. 3rd B.S. 0934/9)

H.X. 92

Meet H.X. 92, 24 ships unescorted (position) 11/12 (C. in C., W.A. 1202/9 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)

E.N. 39 }
W.N. 52 }

Sail 1430/10 for Methil and act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 39 sailing 1830/10. Transfer to W.N. 52 due Cape Wrath 0030/12 and Duncansby 1030/12 (C. in C., Rosyth 1231/9 to JASON)

O.G. 47

C. in C., W.A. 1133/9 R/V for PEGASUS 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1325/10. O.G. 47 routed (positions) (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

Sailed PERIWINKLE for Clyde for O.G.C. 47 sailed CAMPANULA for Oban for O.G.O. 47 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1330/9 to C. in C., W.A O.G. 47 left Liverpool 9/12 routed (positions) (V.A.N.P. 1616/9) C. in C., W.A 1208/9 HIGHLANDER sailed F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 FLEUR DE LYS, WILD SWAN sailed to R/V in 00° Altacarry 8 miles (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1750/9)

S.L. 5

Sailed BURNHAM to R/V (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1315/9)

F.S. 59

Act as additional escort sailing from Methil 2300/11 escorted by EGRET, VORTIGERN leave convoy (position) proceed to Harwich (C. in C., Rosyth, 1317/9 to WATCHMAN)

/H.X. 90.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

H.X. 90.

INGER arrived Barry Roads for Sharpness. Left Halifax in H.X. 90 lost convoy in gale 20/11. Report TAI YIN ULYSSES turned back. INGER not attacked during voyage. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1345/9)

Your 1938/8/12 Re investigation into attack on H.X. 90. Only witness who saw this was Mr. Crawford 2nd Officer of EMPIRE PUMA who made following statement. "0130 G.M.T. 2/12 a war vessel either destroyer or sloop passed close under my stern. She had two funnels and was heading over to starboard side steering 120°. She appeared to be travelling at considerable speed. About a quarter of an hour afterwards a white flare appeared from her direction. The foremost funnel was very close to bridge and after funnel quite a considerable distance further aft" Time given in my 1521/7 was B.S.T. (Capt D. Liverpool 1455/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

F.S. 56

Departures Humber 9/12 M.L's 106, 108, 110 at 1445/9 to Outer Dowsing thence with F.S. 55. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1502/9)

H.G. 49

Departures Gibraltar 1300/9 DEPTFORD, VIDETTE escorting H.G. 49 VIDETTE part company 13/12. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1714/9)

F.S. 58

R.A.D.,H.F. 1521 BROADWAY will sail as additional escort to F.S. 58, leaving Methil 1400/10, part company at 62 D buoy and escort Humber portion into Spurn and proceed Hull. On arrival Methil BROADWAY should anchor close to WOLSEY for escort instructions from her. (C. in C., Rosyth 1753/9 amended by 2121/9 to BROADWAY)

My 1751/9. For F.S. 59 read F.S. 58. (C. in C., Rosyth 2125/9 to Admty.)

S.L.56

Sailed BURNHAM to R/V (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1315/8)

~~S.L. 56~~

Proceed join S.L. 56 hove to at 1348/9 in position 054° 48' N., 018° 38' W., proceeding when possible 064° and routed through 056° 00' N., 012° 00' W., (C. in C W.A. 1754/9 to LEAMINGTON)

/O.B.Convoys....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	**Shipping**
O.B. Convoys	Your 1556/29/11 (Rescue ships requsitioned to sail; RATHLIN, TOWARD, COPELAND, HONTESTROOM) Request it may be confirmed these ships will have sufficient W/T operators to keep constant watch. (C. in C., W.A., 2006/9 to Admty.)
4 M/V's	Intend sail 4 M/V's escorted by LORD ESSENDEN and JASPER from Needles 1715/9 E.T.A. Dartmouth 0800/10. F.O.I.C. Portland requested arrange for Portland Light from 2330 to 2340/9 and from 0001 to 0010/9 and C. in C., W.A. for Barry Head Light from 0640 to 0650 and from 0720 to 1730/10. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1253/9 to Admty)
O.B. 256	Sailed 0052/9 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0104/9)
H.X. 94	Route RAJPUTANA returns to Halifax (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1946/9)
F.S. 53	Arrived except 7 ships (list of non-arrivals) (N.C.S.O. Thames 1806/9)
F.S. 54	Arrived. Non arrival CITY OF LONDON, reported coming in F.S. 56. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1521/9)
F.S. 55	Arrived except BLUSH ROSE and CHEVINGTON former reported arrived Hartlepool (N.C.S.O Thames 1821/9)
O.G. 47	Sailed escorted by GARDENIA and LEITH (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/9) O.G. 47 sailed 1330/9. 8 ships, Commander B.W. Fairbairn R.N.R. in EGYPTIAN PRINCE for Gibraltar. (N.C.SO. Mersey 1423/9)
E.N. 39	H.M.T's ULLSWATER, RUMBA, SAON, additional escort JASON, ALYNBANK, 31 ships (15 oversea Cose "Usage" E.N.L. portion "Monitor". E.N.O. Portion "Mixture" (N.C.S.O. Methil 1655/9)
N.N. 52 O	Intend sailing 1230/10 escort STELLA CAPELLA, 10 ships to R.V. with "Metric" 0930/11 (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1619/9)
O.B.O. 256	Sailed 0600/9, 14 ships (list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1745/9)
H.X. 92	Meet, 24 ships unescorted. Route (C. in C W.A. 1156/9 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)
E.N. 38	My 2316/8. Add to paragraph (B) extra additional escort PELICAN. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0920/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Ocean Escorts

Cancel my 0143/30/11 to C. in C., S.A. All A.M.C's or other of H.M.Ships acting as ocean escorts for H.X. S.C. and S.L. convoys, whether returning to overseas base or proceeding to the U.K. should normally leave their convoy 24 hours before reaching the rendezvous with local escorts. C. in C., W.A. requested to signal direct to ocean escort the route to U.K. from position of parting company with convoy. (D.T.D. 1648/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Troop Convoys

My 1238/3. Delayed one day. Revised dates (C. in C., E.I. 1150Z/9)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration".

Your 1645/6. Intend carrying out "Ration" 12/12 on completion of training referred to in S.O.Force H. 0939/7 which had already been arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 0946/9).

MARAKESH
EDEA.

Navy Depot. state MARAKESH left Dakar for Casablanca 6/12. EDEA arrived from (? Zanzibar) with troops 6/12.
(B.N.A. Washington 1755/9).

Situation of French Ships at Gibraltar.

CHARLES PLUMIER 31 officers and men refuse to navigate vessel to U.K. (my 1210/5) and ship has missed convoy. I am informed by De Gaulle officer that an attempt to sabotage or scuttle will be made if they hear vessel is eventually to be seized. Armed guard is on board. Auxiliary sailing vessel LES GEMAUX 52 on board all Vichy. Ship unfit to navigate to U.K. except under sail.
Trawler ORAGE 5 Vichy. Suggest Casablanca may be asked to send ship repatriate all above Vichy element.
Hope crew for CHARLES PLUMIER will be found from among free French element but doubtful whether crew can be found for future French ships which may be expected especially in view of impending operation "Ration" unless further survivors from torpedoed ships arrive from Lisbon.
No suitable accommodation ashore Gibraltar for officer class awaiting repatriation.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1724/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WRESTLER. Owing fuel shortage have been detached by RAMILLIES at 1830/8 (position and route) to Falmouth or Plymouth. (WRESTLER 0703A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CACHALOT Azores Patrol. Would be of great assistance to CACHALOT if she knew SHEFFIELD had orders not to close within say 25 miles of Ponta Delgada during dark hours unless chasing the enemy.
(V.A.S. to F.O.C.N.A. 1028/9).

Azores Patrol. Details of sanctuary for submarine on patrol. (D.O.D.(F) 1729/9 to SHEFFIELD CACHALOT, F.O.C.N.A.)

Group 109. Proceed at 1100 G.M.T./9 (B.C. Ponta Delgada 1020/9)

S.S. HERMES. My 1552/6. HERMES sailed 8/12 due Cape St. Vincent 1800/9 thence (route) to Curacoa. Speed 7 knots. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1146/9).

Italian S/M's at Tangier. Names reported as FAADI BRUNO and BENEDETTO BRIN A. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1550/9).

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. As far as known, there are no German prisoners on board CARNARVON CASTLE.
(D.D.O.D.(F) to Millington Drake 0309/9).

CARNARVON CASTLE, QUEEN OF BERMUDA. On leaving Montevideo CARNARVON CASTLE to R/V with QUEEN OF BERMUDA at F.O. and to embark prisoners from her. CARNARVON CASTLE report E.T.A. at F.O. My 1524Z/6 QUEEN OF BERMUDA to take 800 tons of oil from oiler ARNDALE.
(R.A.S.A.D. 0850Z/9 to CARNARVON CASTLE Adty).

My2031/8 and CARNARVON CASTLE's reply T.O.O. received as 1214Z/8 request your remarks. Ship is in no condition for convoy escort and repairs should be effected as soon as possible.
(C.in C. S.A. 1039N/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE, QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (Contd.)

Broadcasting proposed by British Minister Uruguay has no support from me and am opposed to any such publicity. CARNARVON CASTLE 1241Z/9 to Adty).

Your 0850Z/9. E.T.A. at F.O. 0300Z/11 intend anchor and embark prisoners at daylight. C.in C.S.A. pass to R.A.S.A.D. and QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (CARNARVON CASTLE 2158Z/9, to R.A.S.A.D.)

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE damaged.

Sailed E.T.A. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0250/9). Damaged in collision 55.31N., 06.34W. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 0802/9).

HIDLEFJORD, raider report.

Have you any further information concerning raider report from HIDLEFJORD T.O.R. 1511N/8? (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.S.A. 1131/9).

Your 1131/9 No further information but HIDLEFJORD due Freetown 9/12 when information will be obtained and signalled. (C.in C. S.A. 1216/9 to Adty).

Submarines.

C.A.F.O. (5) 515/40. (vii) There are no allied submarines operating on S.A. Station. (C.in C. S.A. 1045N/9 to S.A.Station)

SWONA.

Your 2100/6. Delayed in transit and not received until 1025/9. SWONA having already sailed unable to communicate instructions. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1125/9 to Adty).

8th Submarine Flotilla

Admty. 1228/29/11. After arrival at Gibraltar each S/M of 8th S/M will return once to Portsmouth between patrols in order that ratings longest abroad may be relieved. Adjust complement accordingly before they are sailed for Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (H) 1130/9 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 9.12.40. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DORSETSHIRE. My 0955/5 detailed examination in dock has revealed nothing that could have caused excessive vibration reported in DORSETSHIRE 1915/2. After minor adjustments have been completed ship will proceed to sea p.m./9 for full power trial with Dockyard officers on board. Further signal will be made after trial. (S.N.O.Simonstown. 1207B/9 to C.in C. S.A.)

COLOMBO CARTHAGE. C.M.7. Durban departure 9/12 COLOMBO and CARTHAGE escorting convoy C.M.7. E.T.A. Mombasa 1400/15. CARTHAGE proceeding in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 0352/29/11 para. (ii). (N.O.I.C. Durban 1548Z/9 to Adty).

NEWCASTLE. Your 1310Z/8. NEWCASTLE will leave Freetown 0530/10 and arrive K.33 (d) 16/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1323N/9 to Cmdre. S.A.D.)

NEWCASTLE to leave Freetown 0530/10 and proceed to Square X 33 D and between following route. NEWCASTLE is to come under the orders of R.A.S.A.D. on leaving position 3. (C.in C. S.A. 1735/9 to NEWCASTLE).

FORT DE TROYON. Your 0018/7. FORT DE TROYON is not at present available for commercial voyages to U.K. Six inch coast defence guns for Tata and Port Gentil and free French Merchant marine personnel all ex Freetown due to be transhipped to FORT DE TROYON at Lagos about 15/12. She will then call at Duala to collect essential cargo of foodstuffs and live cattle for same ports. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1738/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

HAWKINS
W.S.4.B.

Simonstown 9/12. HAWKINS arrived and after fuelling departed to rejoin DEVONSHIRE and convoy W.S.4.B. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1830Z/9 to Adty).

DORSETSHIRE.

Your 2240B/9 N/T in War Registry. DORSETSHIRE is to arrive Freetown 0700/18 (C.in C. S.A. 2215N/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, CANTON.

My 2224/5 and subsequent signals. In view of difficulty in forecasting accurately dates of completion and that DUNOTTAR CASTLE will not be delayed presumed you will wish fitting of catapult in CANTON deferred. Request immediate reply.
(D.O.D.(F) 2259 to C.in C. S.A.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA, ENTERPRISE.

Your 2316/8/12 to R.A.S.A.D.. For Minister (- regret oiling of QUEEN OF BERMUDA and repairs to ENTERPRISE both essential at Montevideo within next few days. Endeavour will be made to fuel QUEEN OF BERMUDA at sea - if successful her visit can be postponed until 18/12. Please ask permission for ENTERPRISE's visit 12 - 14/12.
(R.A.S.A.D. 0815Z/9 to N.S.O.(I) Montevideo).

ENTERPRISE
re visit to
Montevideo.

Following from H.M.Minister. Your 0815Z/9/12. I attach great importance from point of view of not killing goose in making the visit of ENTERPRISE 13/12 to 15/12 viz with the appearance of Cmdre. celebrating anniversary of River Plate battle by attendance at cemetary and memorial service on arrival of Lord Willingdon morning 15/12. Would it not be possible to postpone arrival till say 1300 13/12. If impossible no disadvantage in delaying application till I get your reply, rather the reverse. Really think it worthwhile.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2147Z/9 to Cmdre. S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Spezia Docks.	Adty. 1602/7. Consider Nos. 5 and 6 docks can probably take CAVOUR battleship but not LITTORIO battleship. Further lengthening of either dock impossible owing to canal. (V.A. Malta 0925/9).
UPHOLDER USK. UNIQUE.	UPHOLDER USK and UNIQUE are to be transferred to 1st S/M F. as from date of arrival at Gibraltar. (V.A.S. 1504/9).
Naval Mission. M/T Ships. MALAYA.	Asking to consulted before appointments are made. (N.A. Angora 1522/9). Your 1351/7. Proposed operations. (C.in C. Med. 1013/9 to S.O. Force H). (S.O. Force H. 1615/9 to C.in C. Med, 2011/9 to C.in C. Med) See Med. Vol.
Transport of Aircraft.	V.A. Malta 1731/9. See Med. Vol.
2 Submarines, 1 Minesweepers, 2 Torpedo Boats, 1 escort vessel at Beirut.	My 1915/5. All French warships left here this morning. One submarine returned later. (C.G. Beyrouth 1745/9 to Adty).
Bombardment of Maksila and Sidi Barrani.	Night 8/9. by TERROR, LADYBIRD, APHIS. Blenheims and F.A.A. aircraft cooperated. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/9)
Matruh bombed British air operations.	Night 7/8. Enemy A/C dropped 5 bombs on Matruh. No damage, or casualties. 8/12, Bardia, Sidi Barrani and Buenina attacked. 9/12 Sollum attacked. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1832/9).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Turkish Mission.

Following from Admiral Kelly. Your 0259/5 to N.A.Angora para.one. Request I may be consulted on composition of mission before appointments are made. (N.A. Angora 1522/9 to Adty).

East Indies.

Asmara bombed.

Night 7/8. 2 Wellingtons bombed Asmara. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/9).

Military Mission 106.

Re operation of dhows. (C.in C. E.I. 1218Z/9).

Shipping for troop movements.

D. of S.T. 1722/9 to P.S.T.O. Bombay. See Operations Volume.

W.S.4.A.

My 1238/3. W.S.4.A. delayed one day. New dates. (C.in C. E.I. 1150Z/9), to (S.N.O. Red Sea).

Foreign Legion.

G.O./29294. Immediate supply of shipping to transport French Foreign Legion from Duala to Port Sudan. Most Urgent. Material and personnel to be embarked as follows.
(C.in C. M.E. 1250/9 to W.O.)

Suspicious Vessel.

Norwegian ship FOSNA in position 8° 4'N., 74° 48'E at 1905 G.M.T./9 reported a suspicious vessel. FOSNA fired one shot and vessel steered away FOSNA reported all clear at 1940 G.M.T. (C.in C. E.I. 2044Z/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

IDARWALD. DIOMEDE 0917/9, 1252/9, C.in C. A.W.I. 1242/9, 2011/9, N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1555/9 See German Merchant Ships.

RHEIN. Orders to CARADOC. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2011/9) See German Merchant Ships.

HUSTLER Lost. Weather bureau Washington reports wreckage picked up at Swan Island of British sailing schooner HUSTLER lost in hurricane off Cayman Islands in October with fifteen persons on board. Hull not located.
(N.A. Washington, 1031/9).

READING RAMSEY and RIDLEY. Sailed for U.K. 1930/G.M.T./8. RIDLEY returned to St. Johns M.F. 1130 G.M.T./9 with steering defect.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1046/9).

PRINCE ROBERT. Orders. My 1832/5. Enter Callao 14/12 to embark fresh provisions. Leave there 15/12 and proceed to establish patrol off Talcahuano on 19/12. Endeavour to create impression at Callao that your sister ship is also operating West Coast. Oiler SANADOLFO relieving BISHOPDALE will transit Canal about 24/12 and will be ordered to R/V with you.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1251/9).

* Orders for PRINCE ROBERT in view of increased activity of German ships.

French ships at Dakar. Following from Navy Dept., From Dakar 6/12. French ships HOOGAR and VILLE DE TAMATAVE arrived. Latter from Madagascar CARIMARE WORT CAP BLANC left for Casablanca.
(B.N.A. Washington 1309/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Submarine Sighted off Cuba.	S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1544/9. See U/Boat Campaign.
TILAPA. BAYANO. (Fruit Ships.)	Re loading and sailing. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica 1545/9).
NEWMARKET WELLS NEWARK.	While trying main engine in NEWMARKET 9/12 manoeuvring valve jammed caused ship to surge ahead into dock wall taking with her WELLS and NEWARK. Items of all three ships damaged necessitating docking. Ref. your 0628/22/11. No stiffness in working of this valve was apparent during basin trials yesterday. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1648/9).
ROCKINGHAM ROXBOROUGH.	Arrived here 1500 G.M.T. today. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1659/9).
5 French Trawlers.	St.Pierre reports five French trawlers ALFRED, URANIA, J.H. DUHAMEL, S.R. DUHAMEL, S.N. DUHAMEL, having obtained coal from Cape Breton will sail for Casablanca within the next 36 hours with cargo of fish. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1717/9).
GESAIN DESSANBUC QUERCY BEARN.	Following from Navy Dept. American Naval Observer Martinique reports. French ship GESAIN DESSANBUC arrived with food supplied 24/11 owing to detention Fort De France. French ship QUERCY is to leave for France early in December. Personnel of BEARN has been reduced probably to between 250 and 400. (N.A. Washington 1820/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

-

New Zealand.

MONOWAI, patrol.

Arrival Suva 0656Z/8 MONOWAI, departed 1800Z/8 escorting AORANGI for Honolulu for 36 hours, then patrolling North West of Fiji Islands.
(S.O.I. Wellington 0045Z/9 to Adty).

Raider off Nauru.

On 8/12 enemy raider attacked shipping lying off Nauru. TRIADIC observed on fire. Other vessels possibly attacked are TRIASTER, KOMATA, VINNI, TRIONA. 2 vessels with Japanese markings observed standing by TRIADIC. No Japanese ship expected at Nauru. Large vessel presumably raider made off at 0510Z at high speed in a south easterly direction. Description one funnel close to bridge superstructure amidships, funnel raked, 2 masts, counter stern, raked stem, hanger, 6000 tons.
(A.C.N.B. 0054/9 to Adty etc.).

Raider off Nauru.

Your ?0014Z/9.(0054 presumably)
Since approximately 1800/7, there has been no sign of VINNI TRIASTER KOMATA. TRIONA has not been sighted at all and should normally have reached here late p.m. 7th or early 8th. Have instituted continuous Watch on 500 k/cs. Look out is maintained half hour before sunrise to half hour after dark. Early a.m./9 visibility good no ships in sight. Following is description of two enemy vessels.
(R.O. Nauru 0538Z/9).

HERTFORD Mined 7/12.

My 1300Z/7 HERTFORD successfully towed to Spalding Cove Port Lincoln. 2 men slightly injured only casualties.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0630Z/9).

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand. (Contd.)

Reinforcement of Australian Station.

Australian commitments. Proposals for reinforcement. (Naval Board, Melborne 0710Z/9). See Operations Vol.

MELBOURNE STAR.

My 0340Z/2. MELBOURNE STAR due Aden 17/12 thence Suez has following service cargo for M.E.
Request P.S.T.O. Egypt notify Governor Malta in accordance with D.S.T. 1636/1/9. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne 1104Z/9).

MOST SECRET

9.12.1940

War Diary

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

IDARWALD — Boarded 0650. Alongside 0725. Ship still floating but very deep. Water making in engine and boiler room but not appreciably in holds. Salvage tugs essential. Endeavouring to tow and beach in position 022° 02' N., 083° 49' W. (DIOMEDE 0917/9)

Your 0917/9. Unless you consider ship is definitely worth salvage and re-conditioning after beaching, you should sink her. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1242/9 to DIOMEDE)

IDARWALD has sunk. Am proceeding Kingston with 8 officers and 37 rating prisoners including 5 injured at 20 knots at noon (? today) (DIOMEDE 1252/9)

Cancel my 0400/9. DIOMEDE 1447/8 and 0917/9 salvage ship "WILLET" will arrive in first position 1500R/10 and proceed to second position 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1555/9)

DIOMEDE 1447/8 IDARWALD sunk. DIOMEDE proceeding Jamaica to fuel and land prisoners (C. in C., A.W.I., 2021/9 to Admty.)

RHEIN — RHEIN position 026° 00' N., 086° 52' W., course 100° speed 7 knots at 1130R/9. Proceed at 20 knots to arrive approximately 026° 00' N., 084° 30' W., on farthest (? groups omitted) on circle at 0600R/10 and carry out independent curve of search Southwards to cover approximate sector between 090° and 170° from enemy's 1130R/9 position. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2011/9 to CARADOC)

SPEZIA — Left Barcelona for Genoa 7/12. (D.S. 463)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

AEQUITAS — My 1450/20 etc., AEQUITAS under escort arrived Rio de Janeiro night 8/9. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1520/9)

FAUSTO — B.2. report FAUSTO at Montevideo has sold cargo and will unload shortly. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2228Z/7)

MOST SECRET

9.12.1940

War Diary

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MOST SECRET

9.12.1940
Monday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boat Tactics

Admty. 1919/6, para 4. After 1645/22/11 add "Not to all addresses". (D.A/S.W. 2026/9)

Ships Attacked

O.B. 244 (Attacked 23/11)

Commodore O.B. 244 signal 0801/23 (No trace in War Registry Message called for) BLAIRESK not torpedoed this attack and believed vessels torpedoed were OAKCREST in addition to TYNERIC and ANTEN (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1020/9)

LOCH RANZA (Torpedoed 2/12)

Arrived Rothesay LOCH RANZA ex H.X. 90 in tow of Rescue tugs THAMES and SEAMAN (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1145/9)

CALABRIA (Torpedoed 8/12)

Have searched in vicinity CALABRIA for 7 hours and found no trace. An proceeding escorted to fuel. My p, c and s 052° 43' N 017° 24' W., 060° 12 knots. Heavy Westerly sea and swell. Force of wind 8. (HAVELOCK 1501/9)

PALMELLA (Torpedoed 1/12)

Press report received that British PALMELLA was sunk off Portugal. Survivors were proceeding Lisbon in Spanish NAVEMAR.

GALLIA

Please report whether U-Boat casualty and whether torpedoed or shelled and time and position. Also any information about Swedish GWALIA reported lost off Portugal. (D.N.I., 1520/9 to N.A.Lisbon)

PALMELLA

Master of PALMELLA torpedoed on 1/12 in 40° 30' N., 13° 30' W., reports fore part of ship was afloat after after part sank and constituted danger to navigation. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1845/6)

HAVBOR

Master BENREOCH reports picking up raft and four life belts from HAVBOR on 28/11 in 005° 54' N., 012° 29' W., no survivors found.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0730 — A.P. message S/M sighted submerged, 38.03 N., 24.05 W., at 0639/9 (D.D.I.C. 1220/9, 1221/9) (ESPERENCE BAY 0730/9 F.O.C.N.A. 1140/9)

Panama reports from reliable source unknown submarine sighted off South Coast of Cuba between Manzanillo and Santa Cruz Del Sur. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1544/9)

1711 — By D/F 49° N- 50° N., 13° W- 15° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1746/9)

1315 — About 200' W., of Ushant position indefinite. Italian (D.S. 462)

Caribbean

1157 — Coast of Cuba, near Manzanillo, Unidentified submarine (D.5) (D.S. 462)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 on 38° 03' N., 24° 05' W., at 0730/9.
1 about 48° N., to 49° N., 13° W., to 14°W bound for Gironde.
1 bound to outer N.W.Approaches was in about 51° N., 16° W., to 17° W., at 1945/8
1 should now be southbound from Faroe Bank area.

German- 1 in 52° 43' N., 18° 07' W., at 2007/8.
1 in 53° N., 22° W., at 1744/8
2 in N.W.Approaches one of which may be in area 55° N., to 56° N., 10° W., to 13°W and other possibly north of 54° N., and west of 18° W.
Possibly one near 60° N., 20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1355/9)

Submarines Attacked

By SHEFFIELD — Attacked firm contact with five depth charges at 1750 N., in position 039° 38' N 028° 09' W., Result unknown. Consider certain it was S/M and a patrol now exists West of Azores. (SHEFFIELD 1847/9)

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Allocation of TOWN-CLASS Destroyers and PIORUM

Destroyers are allocated as follows:-
(A) LINCOLN LEAMINGTON to Londonderry for 1st or 2nd Escort Groups.
(B) GEORGETOWN to Clyde for 3rd or 4th Escort Groups.
(C) MANSFIELD, MONTGOMERY to Liverpool for 5th or 6th 7th or 8th Escort Groups.
(D) PIORUM to Clyde for 10th Escort Group. CHURCHILL to Clyde for 11th Escort Group.
(2) MANSFIELD is Norwegian manned.
PIORUM Polish manned.

(C. in C. W.A. 1942/10).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/10 (D.C 1148/10) At 2330/10 (D.C. 2340/10).

Movements.

KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER.

Arrived Plymouth 1035/9 (C. in C. W.A. 0020/10).

GARTH, CATTISTOCK.

C. in C. Nore 1510/9. Sail at 1430 today (D. 21 0631/10).

REPULSE, SOMALI, MASHONA, BEDOUIN, ESKIMO.

Proceed executing previous order (F.O. C. 2 C.S. D645/10 to REPULSE)
Expect arrive with Destroyers 1400 today (REPULSE 0902/10 to A.C.O.S.)
Arrived Scapa 1445 (A.C.O.S. 1457/10).

FORMIDABLE PIORUN VIMY

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0905/10)
Intend sail FORMIDABLE escorted by VIMY, DOUGLAS, and KEPPEL at 0745/11.
E.T.A. Scapa 1315/12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1920/10).

NIGER, SELKIRK, HUSSAR, FITZROY, HARRIER, GOSSAMER.

Sailed 0900/10 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0914/10)
Arrived 1551 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1556/10).

NIGERIA.

Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 0920/10).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1550/9. Request you arrange passage of QUEEN ELIZABETH after passing North Channel to conform with C. in C. Rosyth's requirements. (A.C.N.S.H 1028/10 to C. in C. H.F.).
Adty. 2116/8 KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER have been ordered to arrive Nab 0830/11 and to return to Plymouth on relief by H.F. Destroyers. (C. in C. W.A. 1152/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Amendment.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH (continued).

Amendment to his 1402/9 (D.21 1254/10) (Re names of 2 destroyers detailed) Adty. 1028/10. Propose that, after passing through 58° 28'N 5° 28'W., Ship should adjust speed to pass May Island at 1100/14 (C. in C. H.F. 1301/10 to C. in C. W.A.

SOUTHDOWN with EXMOOR BRILLIANT PYTCHLEY proceed passing Swiths at 2200 today to R/V with QUEEN ELIZABETH in 52° 28'N 05°28'W at 1600/12.
2. QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by all available destroyers of 5th D.F. with 4 Hunt Class Destroyers from Nore as A/A protection leaves Portsmouth PM/11th estimated speed of advance 18 knots. Except for mark M. Pom poms she is unarmed.
3. When met take over A/S escort from 5th D.F. and continue escort to Rosyth. Hunt Class Destroyers from Nore will Remain incompany until clear of North Channel.
4. CURACOA will provide A/A protection from Cape Wrath onwards.
5. Air escort is being arranged until clear of North Channel and again on passing Cape Wrath until arrival at Rosyth.
6. QUEEN ELISABETH is due to arrive off Beaver Rock Rosyth at 1330/14 and speed after passing May Island will be in accordance with H.W.O. 38 para 18. (R.A.D. 1414/10 to SOUTHDOWN)

HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK sailed Sheerness 1440/10. E.T.A. Nab Tower 0800/11. C. in C. Nore 1542/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

C. in C. H.F. 1301/10. Concur (C. in C. Rosyth 1638/10 to C. in C. H.F.).

Adty. 2116/8, 1235/9, 1028/10 C. in C. Rosyth 1550/9 C. in C. W.A. 2016/9. Intend sail QUEEN ELIZABETH from Spithead at 1600/11 for Rosyth, escorted by KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER, FERNIE, CLEVELAND, HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK. Route Expect pass Duncansby Head 2200/13 and May Island 0900/14. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1725/10 to Adty)

Following arrangements to be made to provide Air Escort for Ships during Daylight Hours (HQFC 1910/10).

/KASHMIR.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH. (continued).

KASHMIR, PUNJABI, KIPLING, JUPITER sailed 1650. E.T.A. Mab 0830/11 (C in C. W.A. 2004/10).

Adty. 2116/8 and 2117/8. Fighter Command to provide 8 Gun Fighter Escort during daylight Lands End to Rosyth in following sections, and Coastal Command by day in areas not covered by Fighter Command. Maximum scale of protection throughout passage of ship. Importance of operation is emphasized (Air Ministry 2100/10).

My 1723/10 M.A./.S.B's 53, 56, 58, 59 and and 60 will carry out a Coverying Patrol 10 miles to S. of QUEEN ELIZABETH as far as longitude of Lizard, whence they will return to Portsmouth. (C in C. Portsmouth 2223/10) C. in C. H.F. 1301/10 Concur (C. in C. W.A. 2226/10).

AMBUSCADE. Sailed for Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1131/10).

HESPERUS. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1226/10).

NIAGARA. Position 56 48'N 11 30'W, course 066, speed 12 knots E.T.A. Position C. at daylight (NIAGARA 1400/10 to C. in C. W.A.).

HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK, FERNIE, CLEVELAND. Your 2116/8. Propose that 4 HUNT-Class Destroyers should proceed to Clyde after escorting QUEEN ELIZABETH and escort RAMILLIES to Devonport. (C. in C. W.A. 1852 /10).

Approved (D.O.D. H. 2204/10).

PELICAN. Arrived Tobermory (WESTERN ISLES 2115/10).

Operations.

Operation SPECIMEN. Sailed PEGASUS as by C. in C. W.A. 1133/9 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0420/10).

Troop Embarkation at Lamlash. Sailed GLENGYLE, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, FRESSIA for Lamlash (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015/10) Sailed GLENROY for Lamlash. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1500/10).

/Proposed operation.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (continued).

Proposed Operation. (D.O.D.H. 1743/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland). See Operations Volume.

Iceland. QUEEN OF THANET returned to Reykjavik 2300/11 (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2301/10).

CIRCASSIA In view of possible U Boat activity off Azores, operate in following areas leaving G.2. for F.2. at 1200/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 2230/10 to Western Patrol).

Dover shelled. Five rounds from Coastal Batteries between 1919 and 1952 today. 4 fell near R.M. Siege Battery and 1 in Dover. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 2234/10).

Submarines.

UPHOLDER. Sailed 1433 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1503/10)

L.26. Sailed for Dundee, escorted by THIRLMERE E.T.A. 0930/11 (A.C.O.S. 1540/10).

SUNFISH. Arrived (S.6. 1635/10).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/11 (V.A.S. 1734/10).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Following being flown today (C. in C. Rosyth 0716/10).

FRIESENLAND. A/C of 217 Sqdn to attack this A/C Security Vessel tonight in dry dock at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/10 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Lorient. A/C of 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack Power Stations, S/M's and Dockyard tonight. A/C of 22 Sqdn to attack S/M's (H.Q.C.C. 1101/10 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy SEASON. Help. My position 51° 47' 1°45'E (HUSSAR 1125/10)Fighters have left C. in C. Nore 1135/10 to HUSSAR)

Convoy. AGENT. Help. Position 57° 41'N (?Longitude) (VERSATILE 1150/10).

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (continued.)

Orkneys. My 1349/9 At 1210/9 A/C attacked UNSTAES at Saxavord, station at Skaa, and Haroldswick, and Burnburgh, and Unst. Particulars. One slight casualty in Unst. (A.C.O.S. 1707/10).

Spurn Head. Adty. 1927/4. Reply as to failure of A/A guns to engage Enemy A/C at 1710/3 (Antacor 2000/10 to Dacoast 4).

LONDONDERRY. One A/C dropping Flares in 52°25N 2°E. (LONDONDERRY 2333/10 and 2338/10).

Mining.

Z.M.E. 5. Intend leave Milford Haven at 1800/10 lay at 2230, returning about 0100/11. (ADVENTURE 1003/10) Completed (ADVENTURE 2345/10).

Thames. Open. Precaution (F.O.I.C. London 1055/10).

Thames Estuary. Explosions and Fireworks on Night 9/10 (X.D.O. Sheerness 1215/10).

Dover. Routine sweeps to 0800/10. One Mine exploded ½ mile West of No. 10 Buoy in QZS 105 (V.A. Dover 1255/10).

Tyne. Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1315/10).

ARETHUSA. Arrived Scapa 1307 (A.C.O.S. 1457/10).

SOUTHERN PRINCE. Arrived Port Z.A. 1540/10 with PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON, BATH, and ST. ALBANS (TRELAWNEY 1548/10).

T.Z.R.I. (Faroese Trawler) Mined at about 0400/10 in 65° 20'N 13° 40'W. May be derelict or sunk. Abandoned by crew. Crew safe. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1742/10) Name was T.Z.R.I. (one) not THORY. Skipper admits knowing prohibited area but thought he was outside it (F.O. Iceland 1603/12).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel.

1 small slow Vessel bearing 284°12' from Sumburgh at 2325/9. (A.C.O.S. 1607/10).

Warship Among HX 90 2/12.

Following statement by Mr. Crawford of EMPIRE PUMA in HX 90"0130 G.M.T./2. A War vessel either Destroyer or Sloop passed close under my stern. She had two funnels and was heading over to Starboard side steering 120° She appeared to be travelling at considerable speed. About a quarter of an hour afterwards a white flare appeared from her direction. The foremost funnel was very close to bridge and after funnel quite a considerable distance further aft."

Request you interregate all Masters of Ships from HX 90 to obtain further information on this incident. (C. in C. W.A. 2000/10).

BOULOGNE.

R/C at 1440/10 (PIU 2258/10).

BISMARCK TIRPITZ

French press 23/11 quotes Voelkischer Beobachter announcing commissioning of these ships (A.N.A. Istanbut 1800/10) (N.I.D. Comment).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE THUNDER. Your 1720/9. Search should be made back to 58° 4' N 10° 56'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0110/10 to ST. OLAVES) EMPIRE THUNDER returned from O.B.O. 253. Engines disabled (N.C.S.O. Oban 1215/10) EMPIRE THUNDER has arrived Oban (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1442/10 to ST. OLAVES).

LEAMINGTON. Your 1754/9. Delayed owing to engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0230/10 to C. in C. W.A.) Expect to complete 14/12 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1842/10 to C. in C. W.A.).

WALKER
VANSITTART WALKER's 1040/9. WALKER and VANSITTART arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1012/10).

NYLAND. (Norwegian 1375 Tons) Proceed to assist. Reported aground on West Rock 56° 14' 30" N 6° 27'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1202/10 to SCHELDE and SUPERMAN) SUPERMAN return to Campbeltown (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1610/10).

ORCHIS. Aground at Tobermory Proceed to reflont (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1202/10 to SUPERMAN) Refloated. No damage as far as observed. (WESTERN ISLES 1825/10).

KEPPEL. Asdic out of action. May require docking for repairs to dome (R.A.M.L. 0903/10) Repairs will be carried out on her return to Scapa with FORMIDABLE. (C in C. H.F. 1537/10).

HOLLYHOCK (Corvette) Damaged in gale. Details Propose sail to Liverpool PM/11 (WESTERN ISLES 1214/10 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).

TULIP. (Corvette) Consider propellor only damaged (WESTERN ISLES 1214/10).

AGHIA EIRINI. Now ashore in Clew Bay. Crew all safe on Achill Island. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1713/10 to Adty).

CRAIGMILLER. (M/S Trawler) Arrived 1400/10 (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft. 1410/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (continued).

ASSURANCE.	(Rescue Tug) Arrived. Unfit for sea (F.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1217/10).
WINDSOR.	Intend sailing in tow of Tug ST. MELLONS at 0915/11 for Sheerness, escorted by WIDGEON (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1339/10).
MONA'S ISLE	(A/A Guardship) Collided with Pier at entrance to Methil Docks today. Request early survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1443/10).
NORTHCOATES.	Intend sailing in tow, escorted by rest of 44th M/S Group, to arrive Aberdeen 1200/12 (A.C.O.S. 1820/10).
HAVELOCK.	Position 55° 21'N 10° 48'W Details of damage. Am proceeding to Liverpool. (HAVELOCK 2112/10 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1940. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys. Estimated positions 0900/10 (D.T.D. 1920/10).

F.N. 53 Arrived 0430/10 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0507/10).

H.G. 48. Escorted by DEPTFORD and VIDETTE, position (F.O.C.N.A. 1420A/10) See also North Atlantic.

O.B. and O.G. Order of sailing escort groups O.B. 260 - O.B. 266 and O.G. 48 (C. in C. W.A. 1528/10).

O.G. 47. Sailed 0055/10, escort PERIWINKLE (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0101/10) plane carrier PEGASUS sailed from BELFAST at 0420/10 for operations with O.G. 47. (D.O.R.10/12) Route, to avoid S.L. 56 (C. in C. W.A. 1138/10).

H.X.92. Lost touch with HX 92 at 1000/8. Am now 200 miles from convoy return to Halifax. RODNEY position at 1400 G.M.T./9 058° 17'N 027° 10' 26° 3 knots. (MONTCLARE. 0132/10).

H.X. 92. From Commodore. Ocean escort and half convoy dispersed by gale. Approximate position 0900 G.M.T. 000° 160 miles from "Horse" course 083° speed 8 knots N.W. gale. 11 ships in convoy. (ROTORUA 1106/10, to Admty).

F.N. 55. Humber 10/12 departure Salvage Tug NESSUS at 0430 to join F.N. 55 thence Tyne (F.O. Humber 0921/10).

W.N. 52. 1015/10 HORNPIPE H.M. Trawler STELLA CAPELLA S.O. joining Oban R/V 2 ships.

(N.C.S.O. 1033/10).

O.B.M. 258. 1645/11 H.M.T. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Seven (N.C.S.O. Milford. H. 1136/10).

F.S. 57. Humber 10/12 departure H.M.T. ORPHEUS at 0300 to join F.S. 57 thence to Yarmouth. (F.O. Humber 1340/10).

/O.B. 257....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10. 12.40. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd.).	Shipping. (continued).
O.B. 257.	Sailed ANTELOPE escorting O.B. 257. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1422/10).
S.L. 557.	Route, to avoid U. boat (D.T.D. 1426/10).
O.B. 259.	Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1505/10).
4 M.V's	Your 1253/9 (Group of 4 M/Vs sailed escorted by LORD, ESSENDEN & JASPER) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1526/10).
F.S. 58.	BROADWAY left with F.S. 58 for Hull (N.O.I.C. Methil 1551/10).
H.X. 95.	Departures AUSONIA Ocean Escort and RESTIGOUCHE Local Escort HX 95. (S.O.I. Halifax 1630/10).
S.C.14.	Commodore S.C. 14 Master of S.S. ATHENIC has been requested to report estimated bearing and distance from "ROBIN" at 0900 G.M.T./12. When intercepted join Convoy providing position is West of 20°W then comply with F.O.C. N. P. 1210/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1900/10 to SALOPIAN).
E.N. 39.	1830/10. H.M.T.'s ULLSWATER, RUMBA, SAON. Additional Escorts JASON, ALYNBANK. 26 Ships 2. Ships for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1925/10).
S.L. 56.	Add to my 1920/10 AMBUSCADE will sail as additional escort as far as Skerryvore subsequently to proceed to meet S.L. 56 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2332/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2343/10).
Troop Convoys. W.S. 5A.	Admiralty 2250/6 para 5 A/S Escort for slow group of W.S. 5A. Request destroyers may be sailed as follows. From Portsmouth to Liverpool. From Nore to Greenock. From R.A.M.L. to Greenock. All to arrive A.M./17 if possible. (C in C. W.A. 1456/10). Transport of Foreign Legion from Camerons in W.S. 5A (D.O.D. (F) 2353/10 see South Atlantic).
Dutch Ships.	Behaviour in convoy (see South Atlantic.)

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CHARLES PLUMIER. Your 1724/9. So long as there is an armed guard on board CHARLES PLUMIER there can be no excuse for an attempt to scuttle this ship succeeding.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1646/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CUBA. Your 1159/22. French N.A. was told in Vichy that CUBA is in Freetown. He write/s officially on behalf of French Admiralty: Submit polite to answer at more length than my present information permits, with some indication of future fate of passengers.
(N.A. Madrid to Adty). (1730/10)

French Submarine Reliefs. Following from French Admiralty via N.A. (begins) Please inform Admiralty that S/M reliefs in Atlantic will take place shortly. First movement; S/Ms LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE and ARCHIBALDE escorted by sloop commandant BORY will pass Gibraltar east to west 14/12, between 1000 and 1200 G.M.T. (ends) F.O.C.N.A. please inform F.O."H".
(N.A. Madrid, 1815/10 to Adty).

WYOMING OREGON. My 1304/8 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1645/8. Safe conduct for WYOMING and OREGON received. They should be sailed on 13/12 and 15/12, respectively routed in accordance with my 1913/28/10.
(D.O.D.(H) 2052/10).

PROTEUS. North Atlantic
Intend sailing PROTEUS for Portsmouth p.m./12. E.T.A. in position 041° 00'N., 012° 00'W, 2100 zone minus one 14/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1146/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Azores. Patrol S/Ms. The area within following limit is to be regarded as a sanctuary during dark hours for submarines on Azores patrol 037° 23'N., 025° 08' W., 025° 52'W the South Coast St. Miguel. This area is not to be entered between sunset and sunrise unless chasing an enemy.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1152/10).

CACHALOT. TRIDENT. CACHALOT home route. TRIDENT leaves vicinity Lands End. (date) to relieve you. (Capt: S.2. to CACHALOT 1632/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARK ROYAL Defects.

ARK ROYAL reports S.2. boiler out of action due to fracture of studs. Repairs Estimated time required by ship's staff 15 days from receipt of heat resisting steel. Except for very short period high speed with five boilers is 28 knots.
(S.O. Force H. 1232/10 to Adty).

Minesweepers.

Instruct SWONA with SKUDD 3 SKUDD 4 and SKUDD 5 in position 31° N., 25° W. not to call at St. Vincent except incase of necessity. Whalers are keeping W/T watch in accordance with 1637/30 from N.O.I.C. Ardrossan.
(D.O.D.(F) 1258/40 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. to SWONA etc. 1531/10).

DERBYSHIRE.
ENCOUNTER.
H.G.48.
PROTEUS.
Trawlers.

DERBYSHIRE leave Eastern end of F.2 patrol area at 1800/10 routed through 036° 00'N., 011° 00' W to Gibraltar. ENCOUNTER will pass through position 036° 00'N., 010° 28'W at 1200/12. steering 270° and will escort DERBYSHIRE to Gibraltar. After meeting ENCOUNTER DERBYSHIRE is to adjust speed to arrive off Northern entrance of Gibraltar at 0800/13. Convoy H.G.48 escorted by DEPTFORD also by VINETTE until dark 13/12 p.c.s. at 1200/10 035° 30'N., 008° 00'W., 257° 6½ knots routed through 035° 10'N., 010° 00'W., 039° 00' 017° 00'. PROTEUS sails from Gibraltar 1800/12. KINGSTON TOPAZ on patrol off Lisbon, KINGSTON JACINTH on patrol off Cadiz. Routed.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1420A/10 to DERBYSHIRE).

BERWICK.

My 1702/3 BERWICK will be completed p.m./16 and ready for sea a.m./17.
(A.S. Gibraltar 1630/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Oil for Norwegian Whalers.

My 1135/6. (Oil for Norwegian Whale Catchers from stocks at Ponta Delgada). Inform British Consul Azores it is amending my 1130/6 to him which he could not decypher (begins) At request of Adty. and agreed by Jersey Company please arrange with Manager of Tagus Oil Co. deliver about 15/12 maximum 1000 tons of oil to ten ex-Norwegian Whale Catchers on passage to U.K. for requisitioning asking him to maintain secrecy as to why this supply of oil is required. Consul General (Ends).
(Consul-Gen. New York. 1720/10).

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE.

My 0955/5.(re Vibration in in DORSETSHIRE) Trial satisfactory. Ship appears to be in every way normal and will sail on 10/12 in accordance with your 2215/9.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0937B/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

ENTERPRISE visit to Montevideo.

Your 0947/10. Visit of ENTERPRISE to Montevideo though essential has had to depend on dates of arrival of CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE. QUEEN OF BERMUD'a (corrupt group) CARNARVON CASTLE's repairs and disposal of prisoners. In view of your 1323/9 it is now possible to meet Minister Montevideo's wish. I intend therefore to visit Montevideo in ENTERPRISE 13-15/12 transferring broad pendant to CUMBERLAND at F.O. a.m./16/12 and sailing ENTERPRISE for Simonstown p.m./16.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1214Z/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

ARNDALE
ENTERPRISE.

Be at anchorage F.O.2200 G.M.T. Sunday 15/12. ENTERPRISE will probably arrive shortly afterwards.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1215Z/10 to ARNDALE).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND Transfer of Flag.	Leave K 33 (c) a.m. 13/12 and proceed to fuel from Oiler ARNDALE at anchorage F.O. at daylight 16/12. I will transfer you from ENTERPRISE there. (R.A.S.A.D. 1226Z/10 to CUMBERLAND).
DORSETSHIRE.	Simonstown departures 1215/10. DORSETSHIRE for Freetown by direct route. E.T.A. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1230Z/10 to Adty. etc.)
NEWCASTLE. to S.A.D.	Departures 0800/10. NEWCASTLE to join S.A.D. in accordance with C.in C. S.A's 1735N/9. (S.O.I. Freetown 1003N/10 to Adty).
CARNARVON CASTLE.	Request early reply to my 1039/9 and my 1125/8. CARNARVON CASTLE is leaving South American waters 11/12 and destination must be decided. If repairs can be undertaken and prisoners landed, Simonstown or Capetown would be best solution. (C.in C. S.A. 1051N/10 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
CARNARVON CASTLE. CANTON.	Your 2259/9. It has been hoped CARNARVON CASTLE could be used for escort on passage to refit but this not desirable in view of extent of damage. Agree fitting of catapult in CANTON be deferred but consider the next A.M.C. suitable for cruising work should be taken in hand for catapult and general improvement in armament as soon as situation improves. (C.in C. S.A. 1055 /10 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE, QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

After transfer of prisoners CARNARVON CASTLE is to remain in company with QUEEN OF BERMUDA pending instructions from C.in C. S.A. QUEEN OF BERMUDA on completion of oiling is to patrol L.32 and is to enter Montevideo for 24 hours, (date). I will arrange visit. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is subsequently to proceed to patrol K.33. (R.A.S.A.D. 1242/Z/10).

BULOLO.

My 1327N/20/11. Request BULOLO be sailed to arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1103N/10 to V.A.N.P.)

Dutch Ships in Convoy.

A number of reports have been received during the last two months of Dutch merchant ships in rear of Columns in convoy showing bright lights astern visibile 10 or 12 miles. As a precaution, I am taking steps to ensure that in future no Dutch ship occupies a rear position in any S.R.Convoy, and Commodores are being warned that they should expel from convoy any Dutch ship dropping astern without valid reason. (N.C.S.O.Freetown), 1351/10 to Adty).

Free French Volunteers.

My 1617/5 and 1201/6. Intend to send the Merchant Seaman Volunteers for Free French Forces referred to to Lagos in S.S. ADDA sailing a.m./11, onward passage to Duala arranged. (C.in C. S.A. 1331/10 to Adty).

Foreign Legion, Transport, NEURALIA, CASAMANCE.

Movement referred to in D. of S.T's 0107/7 is now urgent as contract of service for men of Legion expires 31/12 and unless moved from Cameroons some time before that date many may refuse to sign on again. D. of S.T. will allocate transport for troops from Duala to Freetown and C.in C. S.A. is requested to report when this movement can take place so that the troops may be transhipped into NEURALIA at Freetown (date). NEURALIA will be included in Convoy WS. 5A. and will become available after British troops have disembarked. Particularly desired that NEURALIA shall continue in WS 5A. C.in C. S.A. requested to arrange for the M.T. and stores to be embarked in CASAMANCE and vessel sailed independently for port Sudan. (D.O.D.(F) 2353/10 to C.in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

D. of S.T's 2027/1 and 0107/7. My 1646/8 Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos' 1418/9. Sailing of CASAMANCE to U.K. by Nigerian Authorities necessitates substitution as mechanical transport to Port Sudan, FORT LAMY now at Duala. Arrangements.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1819/10 to Adty.)

Your C.O./29294/9/12. Matter already in hand through D. of S.T. and Naval Authorities. D. of S.T. 0107/7/12 to C.in C. South Atlantic, etc. refers. Shipping is being arranged to link up with W.S.5A and date of sailing will conform with your requirements.
(W.O. 1910/10 to C.in C. M.E. etc.)

General de Larminat has received telegram from Duala stating that N.C.S.O. now says that Legion will embark on CAPO OLMO and not INDOCHINOIS and material on CASAMANCE which has now left port of Harcourt for unknown destination. CAPO OLMO expected Duala 19th not yet fitted for troops and even after fitting will only hold 650 men. Refer you Mideast tele. No. C.O./29294 of 9th. General de Larminat would appreciate earliest information when Legion can be embarked as a whole.
(20 M.Mission, Brazzaville, 2000/10 to W.O.)

Whalers, South African Force, manning 4 Whalers.

Admty. 1127/8. As result of Cabinet meeting this morning Secretary for Defence, states. Previous political objections not considered insuperable as ships will be employed in waters surrounding Africa provided they are based on port in Africa e.g. Alexandria. (Proposals) Consider enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) is essential to compliance with Naval discipline notwithstanding Union Defence Act (Amendment) Act and Dominion Forces Act 1932 Section 10, observing that S.D.F. is governed by military discipline code. Request

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

very early directions.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 2222/10 to Adty).

ARK ROYAL.
Flight.

S.O.Force H. 1844/8 and V.A. Malta 1731/9 Fully concur with N.O.I.C. Malta.
(C.in C. Med. 1258/10 to S.O. Force H.)

Landing Craft.

My 1936/13/11. Revised arrival programme for landing craft and carriers in Middle East. (D.O.D.(F) 1039/10 to C.in C. Med.)

BURGONET
Bosporus Boom.

Adty. 1944/2. Anticipated BURGONET will meet requirements at Suda Bay, provided it does not become necessary to defend another harbour. Important that Turks should be able to lay Bosporus boom rapidly and subsequently maintain it efficiently. (C.in C. Med. 1325/10).

REGULUS
Lost.

3 days overdue from patrol in Gulf of Otranto and Adriatic and regarded as lost. (C.in C. Med. 1615/10).

Air Reconnaissance.

Tripoli harbour, 4 destroyers 9 M/V's, 5000 -8000 tons. Midday one hospital ship escorted by one destroyer entering harbour. No enemy air activity over Malta. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1700/10).

MALAYA
EAGLE.

Your 1941/4. Approved to send MALAYA.
Your 1959/4. Your offer appreciated but EAGLE is not required at present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med. 2137/10).

H.M.S./M X 2.
(formerly
Italian.)

Arrived Suez 10/12 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. 2343/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Valona bombed.

Operational Summary No. 183 up to 1200/10.
Greece. 9/12. 3 Blenheims made offensive reconnaissance Valona bombs falling on jetty and 3 large Customs houses. 22 ships were seen in the harbour of which 13 were between 5000 and 15000 tons.

F.A.A. Attacks TERROR & APHIS Maktila Bombardment

Egypt. 9/12. Blenheims and Bombays made sustained bombing attacks on Tobruk Bardia and Sollum to prevent enemy reinforcements reaching the Buq Buq area. F.A.A. aircraft also bombed the escarpment road at Sollum to cut off enemy reinforcements from Buq Buq and co-operated with TERROR and APHIS in bombardment of Maktila.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1255/10).

Military Advance, Western Desert, Operations in Support.

Following supporting operations are taking place in conjunction with attack in Western Desert.

TERROR and APHIS bombarded Maktila Camp and LADYBIRD the Headquartery Camp at Sidi Barani on night 8th/9th. R.A.F. and Fleet Air Arm co-operated, bombing and flaring. Three destroyers were in support. Bombardments are reported to have been successful aircraft reporting that all salvoes fell in target areas. Clouds of dust from TERROR's gunfire made observation results difficult. Stores have been sent to Mersa Matruh by X Lighter ready to put ashore behind advanced troops if necessary to ease army transport difficulties. TERROR and gunboats remain in support, BARHAM, VALIANT and destroyers proceeding so as to be able to bombard Sollum and Escarpment Roads should army require. WARSPITE is at short notice to support if desirable. ILLUSTRIOUS 3rd C.S. and destroyers proceeding to carry out night attack by aircraft on Eb Adam aerodrome returning so as to give fighter support to battleships. Intend issuing following communiquei- During nights 8/12 and 9/12 Naval Units successfully bombarded Maktila Camp and Sidi Barani in support of Army operations.
(C.in C. Med., 1635/10 to Adty).

Italian Mines.

My 1125/8 para.3. Some (?surface) explosions of drifting mines are probably caused by hydrostatic safety switch on 6 horned Italian contact mines being rendered inoperative by marine growth.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Mines.
(Contd.)

This has occurred in 2 mines of this type which have been recovered.
About half drifting mines in this area, 6 horned type.
(V.A. Malta 2011/10 to C.in C. Med.)

Movement Summary No. 175.

Force 'D' comprising ILLUSTRIOUS 3rd C.S. four destroyers left Alexandria 1500/10 to operate off Libya night 10/11 and join Force (C) comprising BARHAM, VALIANT, COVENTRY seven destroyers in 032° 24' 026° 09' at 0700 11.
Force 'C' left Alexandria 1600/10 for above R/V proceeding thence to operate off Sollum. TERROR, BAGSHOT, LADYBIRD. APHIS operating off coast between Matruh and Sollum ULSTER PRINCE escorted by DEFENDER left Suda for Kaso Straits p.m./10 E.T.A. Port Said a.m.12. DEFENDER parting company dark 11/12 to arrive Alexandria 11. Convoy A.N.10 escorted by HYACINTH leaves Port Said A.M.12 proceeding through 033° 30' 028° 02' to pass Kaso Straits 0001/15 then through 035° 47' 024° 50' to Piraeus. SALVIA and convoy leave Alexandria p.m.12 to join A.N.10 0700/14. COVENTRY and DEFENDER leave Force 'C' and Alexandria respectively p.m.13 to join A.N.10 0700/14. H.M.S. FIONA leaves Piraeus a.m.11 to arrive Alexandria p.m.13. H.M.S. AJAX and H.M.A.S. SYDNEY covering until East Gavdo Island then proceeding Suda. T.O.O. 2105/10.
(C.in C. Med. 2352/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Aden Facilities. S.N.O. Red Sea requests provision of following to improve unloading facilities at Aden. Request possibility of supplying any of these craft from Indian or East African waters. (D. of S.T. 0426/10 to P.S.T.O. India).

U.S.8. Your 1155/7 and D. of S.T. 1722/9. Desirable that ships selected for onward U.S.Convoys from Colombo should be capable of 15 knots at least. Request that faster ships than RAJULA and ROHNA may be selected for U.S.8. if possible. (C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/10. to P.S.T.O. India).

MAHSUD. Request you sail MAHSUD on 11/13 for Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I. 0812/10 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

RANCHI. To leave Colombo 0400Z/12 and proceed Durban via 1½° and Mozambique Channels calling at Mahe, Seychelles, for fuel. To arrive Durban (date)(C.in C. E.I. 0814Z/10 to RANCHI)

Suspicious Vessel. My 2044/9. (Suspicious vessel sighted by Norwegian ship FOSNA). Suspicious vessel was KATIE MOLLER. (C.in C. E.I. 0910Z/10)

SOUTHAMPTON. My 2114/8. A.O. Nairobi is providing air protection for SOUTHAMPTON. (C.in C. E.I. 1108Z/10 to Adty).

U.S.7. CALEDON. Departure 1100Z/10, CALEDON to join U.S.7. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1146Z/10).

Appointment. Your 1846/18/11 approved. Necessary appointments being issued. (Hd. of C.W. to C.in C. E.I. 1546/10).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CARTHAGE. My 1156/28. After leaving C.M.7 CARTHAGE is to proceed to patrol in area between 26° and 030° S., and 037° and 044° E. CARTHAGE is to leave patrol to arrive Durban (date).
(C.in C. E.I. 0816Z/10).

Whalers. Your 1126/3. As these Whalers have already fuelled at a Portuguese port it is very undesirable that they should do so again within three months. It is considered that they can reach Mombasa with a safe margin, subject to C.in C. S.A. confirming that their passage from St. Helena to the Cape was made without re-fuelling.
(D.O.D.(F) 1257/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

PROTECTOR defects. My 0557/10. H.M. Tug PROTECTOR returned to harbour with minor engine room defects. Expects to sail a.m./11.
(S.O.I. Bombay 1434Z/10).

Air Report, Convoy B.S.10. Summary Number 181 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 10/12. 1200 to 1400 1 Blenheim 8 Sqdn. made armed photographic reconnaissance Jibouti, Zeila, Barbera Hargeisa. Only opposition moderate inaccurate A.A. from bofors position Hargeisa. Bombs dropped at 2255 near this position. Three Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter escorts to convoy B.S.10 1 using advanced base Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden. 2006/10).

Kismayu attack, SOUTHAMPTON. SOUTHAMPTON reports as follows on her attack on shipping at Kismayu p.m./10 Closed to 15000 yards and opened fire on YAMAYURI MARU. Four guns from six inch battery on Mtanga Papa Island opened fire simultaneously first salvo cutting Halyards. SOUTHAMPTON fired seven salvoes but results not apparent. Withdrew under fire of three batteries which continued accurate shooting up to 24000 yards. No damage or casualties in SOUTHAMPTON. Air report not yet received.
(C.in C. E.I. 2020Z/10 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Aden Port Facilities.

My 1654/2/11, shows a need for modernisation of Aden Port for war purposes. Port Trust have now produced a sketch plan. Fear their scheme would take too long and cost too much. Should appreciate your opinion as to quickest way to produce at least two leading berths, with extention to four if desired.
(S.N.O. Red Sea 1757Z/10 to Adty).

China.

DAUNTLESS
CRICKET
TARANTULA
GURNA.

Nancowry 9/12 departure for Colombo at 0900Z. (C.in C. China, 0259/10 to Adty. and C.in C. E.I.)

Shipping Withdrawal.

Your 0223/17/10 and 0257/3/12. The gradual withdrawal of British and Allied ships from Japanese waters is under constant consideration. Under (a) of your 0223/17/10, decision has recently been reached to requisition two vessels and Consul-General, Shanghai, has been so informed. Under (b), several ships have already been withdrawn and policy of "thinning" is likely to be accelerated in the near future.
(Hd. of M. 1143/10 to C.in C. China).

Raider Description.

Addition to his 1621/7. Captain's name is Capitan Zue See Rogge.
(C.in C. China 1609Z/10).

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE.

On completion fuelling to proceed at 20 knots to Yucaton Channel.
(C.in C. A.W.I. to DIOMEDE 0932/10).

DIOMEDE arrived Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Jamaica, 1301/10) Left again 2210 zone plus 5. (S.O.I. Kingston 2210/10)

/ROYAL SOVEREIGN....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Aden Port Facilities.

My 1654/2/11, shows a need for modernisation of Aden Port for war purposes. Port Trust have now produced a sketch plan. Fear their scheme would take too long and cost too much. Should appreciate your opinion as to quickest way to produce at least two leading berths, with extention to four if desired.
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Raider Description.

Addition to his 1621/7. Captain's name is Capitan Zue See Rogge.
(C.in C. China 1609Z/10).

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE.

On completion fuelling to proceed at 20 knots to Yucaton Channel.
(C.in C. A.W.I. to DIOMEDE 0932/10).

DIOMEDE arrived Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Jamaica, 1301/10) Left again 2210 zone plus 5. (S.O.I. Kingston 2210/10)

/ROYAL SOVEREIGN....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies, Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Arrived 10/12 from Gibraltar, (S.O.I., Halifax, 1630/10)

Loop Laying — In view of Admty. 1548/9, cancel my 1002/8 (C. in C., A.W.I., 0922/10 to Capt i/c Trinidad)

U.S.S. BADGER, Grounding — Assistance by R.N. when aground at Bermuda on 4/12. Propose not to claim salvage, as similar circumstance may constantly arise at leased bases. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1034/10 to Admty.)

ST. CROIX
NIAGARA
ST. CLAIR — SAINT CROIX has proceeded southward to obtain better weather conditions. She reports unable to steer eastward due to heavy following seas and frequent breakdown of steering and has been unable to search eastward for NIAGARA and SAINT CLAIR. Latter ships have sufficient fuel to last midnight 13th-14th and had orders to proceed to U.K. independently if separated. SAINT CROIX intends unless weather conditions alter to return to Halifax via St. Johns N.F. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to Admty. 1018/10)

Report situation, breaking W/T silence at your discretion to do so. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1253/10 to SAINT CROIX)

MONTCLARE
To Locate — My 1711/19. MONTCLARE endeavour to locate ST. CROIX and escort her towards St. Johns N.F. if in need of assistance. ST CROIX report position course and speed via Halifax W/T for information of MONTCLARE. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1256/10 to ST. CROIX, MONTCLARE)

MONTCLARE
ST. CROIX — Your 2212/10 to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. only. Your future action must depend on reply from SAINT CROIX to my 1256/10 asking for his p.c.s. Remain searching to southward and westward of area given in my 1711/9 for further 24 hours unless further signal is received. Report your present p.c.s. (F.O.C. 3.B.S. 2236/10 to MONTCLAR

SATURNUS — New York's 1944/5. Galveston reports master of SATURNAS did not (?call for) route instructions although agents were informed that N.C.S.O's assistance was advisable and available. No signal has yet been made to SATURNAS. Request instructions (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1259/10 to Admty.)
Further re routeing (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1806/10 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Japan. Communications	9/12. Have learnt Japanese authorities have prohibited postal communication between Marshall and Gilbert Islands. (Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, to Admty., T.H.I., 2110/10)
Raider	My 00542/9, (Shipping attacked by enemy raider off Nauru) No publicity of any kind yet released. Request you conform. (A.C.N.B. 1106Z/10, to Admty., etc.)
SILKSWORTH (Mined)	British, 4921 tons. My 1300Z/7. SILKSWORTH was mined inside 100 fathoms line. She was fitted with paravanes and paravanes were inboard and not streaming at time. Action is being taken in Australian Station to warn masters of paravane fitted ships in terms of para 222 of D.E.M.S. part 1. (A.C.N.B., 1122/10 to Admty, etc.)
HERTFORD (mined)	HERTFORD, British 10,923 tons, mined, has been towed into Port Lincoln, South Australia. (D.O.R., 10/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RARITONGA	B.3. report from Santos, may sail shortly. (N.A., Rio de Janiero, 1730/10)
WIJNETOU	Left Kobe 7/12. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0754/10
ANNELIESE ESSBERGER	Correspondence intercepted in Canada from Master states ship sold to Japanese. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0754/10)
GLENGARRY Sunk	Launched at Copenhagen 6/11/39 for the British Glen Co. but taken over by Germans was sunk on her maiden voyage early in November between shipyard and Germany. (D.S. 462, Air Min. D.S. 512)
ATLAS	Arrival 10/12. (Valencia, 1930/10) from Barcelona. First movement of this ship since 31/8/1939. (D.S. 463)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LELLO	Left 9/12 for Genoa. (Barcelona, 1807/10)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

PALMELLA (Sunk 1/12)

British 1578 tons. Your 1520/9. PALMELLA sunk by torpedo 1935/1 in 40.30 N., 23.30 W one rating killed remainder now safe in Lisbon. This was reported in N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1939/6 in accordance with N.C.S. instructions 69 and was not reported by me to avoid duplication. No information about GWALIA (N.A.Lisbon 1545/10 to D.N.I.)

0736

S.W. of Cape Verde Is. very indefinite position. (D.S. 462) (D.D.I.C. 1050/10) (C. in C., S.A., 1220/10 to KENT, etc.)

2320

D.F., probable U-Boat, unreliable fix. 50° 50' N., 7° 10' W. (D.D.I.C. 2335/10)

1750/9

S/M reported in 39.38 N., 28.09 W., at 1750/9 (F.O.C.N.A., 0314/10)

1950

53.25 N., 19.30 W., position indefinite, Italian. (D.S. 463)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian- 1 or possibly 2 in Azores area
1 bound for Gironde may be about 46° N., 10° W.,
1 bound for N.W.Approaches may be about 50' N., 14° W.
1 in N.W.Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 homeward bound may be West of Ireland.

German- There is little information on which to estimate number or positions of U-Boats operating but:-
1 is still in Cape Verde Islands area
1 may be bound for Lorient in about 48° N., 10° W.
2 may be between 52° N., and 55° N., East and West respectively of 20° W.
2 may be between 55° N., and 57° N., East of 15° W., and 20° W., respectively.
(D.D.I.C. 1334/10)

MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dunoress. 6-Inch H.H.B.D.C. Coast Defence Battery.	Request early relief of R.M. Personnel by Army Personnel until 2nd.H.H.B.D.C. formed. (V.C.N.S.1212/11 to War Office.)
SUNFLOWER, WINDFLOWER, TRILLIUM.	My 1312/2 and 1626/10. SUNFLOWER is allocated to Londonderry for 1st or 2nd escort groups in place of WINDFLOWER which is allocated to Greenock. for 3rd. or 4th escort groups.
Allocations.	2. WINDFLOWER and TRILLIUM are Canadian manned and it is therefore desirable that both should be based at Greenock. (C in C. W.A. 1350/11.)
VANLANT.	Request report as to whether worth refitting. If not, crew will be discharged to COURBET for disposal. (DOD.H.1613/11 to C in C. WA.)
DELUGE.	Defence of H.K.

At 1130/11. (D.C.1134/11 and 2033/11.)

Movements.

RODNEY. MATABELE. ESCAPADE. ELECTRA. BULLDOG.	R.A.D. to sail 4 Destroyers AM/11 to R/V with RODNEY in 59 32' N. 26 W at 1200/13 where RODNEY leaves Convoy HX.93 and proceeds Scapa. Alternative R/V if Destroyers unable make R/V in time. Route for RODNEY. C in C. Rosyth requested arrange A/S Air Escort during daylight 14th and 15th. (C in C. HF.0106/11 to R.A.D.) MATABELE with ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, BULLDOG, proceeds passing Switha 1030/11 to R/V with RODNEY at 1200/13 and escort to Scapa as in C in C.HF.0106/11. (RAD.HF.0048/11).
FORMIDABLE. AMBUSCADE. DOUGLAS. KEPPEL. VIMY	My 2343/10. AMBUSCADE returns to Clyde after leaving FORMIDABLE at Skerryvore as by C in C.WA.0032/11. (FOIC.Greenock 0109/11 to Adty.). Arrived DOUGLAS and KEPPEL.(FOIC. Greenock 0347/11.)

/Sailed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

FORMIDABLE
AMBUSCADE
DOUGLAS
KEPPEL
VIMY- Contd.

Sailed FORMIDABLE, VIMY, KEPPEL, AMBUSCADE as by my 1920/10 and 2343/10 to carry out Flying Practices on passage. (F.O.Greenock 0821/11 to Admty.)

Return to Campbeltown when detailed. Report E.T.A. (D. 12 1147/11 to AMBUSCADE)

QUEEN ELIZABETH
SOUTHDOWN
BRILLIANT
EXMOOR

Comply with my 1301/10. (C. in C., H.F. 0117/11 to QUEEN ELIZABETH)

Your 1510/9[illegible] (Destroyers) Arrived (C. in C., Portsmouth 0937/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Your 2004/10. (Destroyers) All arrived (C. in C., Portsmouth 1018/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1723/10. As it is possible a U-Boat has laid Mines in Q.Z.F. 15, request you order Destroyers of 5th D.F. to run T.S.D.S. between Lands End and Lundy Island. (C. in C., W.A., 1304/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

My 1723/10. Movements delayed. Intend ship pass gate 1830 today. Route as arranged Speed dependent on weather. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1333/11 to Admty.)

My 1414/10. Owing to weather it is expected QUEEN ELIZABETH will be late at R/V. (R.A.D. H.F. 1745/11 to SOUTHDOWN)

Cancel my 1333/11. Movement will be carried out as in my 1723/10 plus 24 hours. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1817/11 to Admty.)

My 1745/11. QUEEN ELIZABETH 24 hours late Enter Greenock, complete with fuel, and R/V at 1600/13 as by my 1414/10. (R.A.D. H.F. 2156/11 to SOUTHDOWN)

My 2223/10. (M.A/S.B. Screen) Patrol cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Portsmouth 1426/11)

E.T.A. 0815/12. EXMOOR and BRILLIANT in company.(SOUTHDOWN 2359/11 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

/A.110.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

14th. A/S. S/F.	Arrived. (FOIC. Greenock 0237/11 to NOIC. Aberdeen)
NIAGARA) ST. CLAIR.) SCIRITAR.	E.T.A. Greenock 1500/11. (NIAGARA 0705/11). Arrived NIAGARA and ST. CLAIR. (FOIC. Greenock 1745/11). Sailed Londonderry 10/12 for Belfast. (NOIC. Londonderry 0942/11.) Arrived. (FOIC. BELFAST 1444/11.)
JERSEY.	Arrived 1105 at Plymouth.(C in C.W.A. 1232/11.)
VENOMOUS.	Sailed as by your 1902/10. (FOIC. Belfast 1452/11 to C in C.WA.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (ACOS.1537/11.)
HAVELOCK.	Arrived. (FOIC. Liverpool 1601/11.)
LINCOLN.	Sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 0920/13. (FOIC. Milford Haven 1632/11.)
DIDO.) ECLIPSE).	Your 1800/8. Intend retain DIDO in company till position 7 in 10 W, and then route her through Minches. (RAMILLIES 1700/9 to C in C. WA.) Adty. 2222/5. ECLIPSE is to proceed to Scapa in company with DIDO. (C in C. HF. 1751/11.)
LE TRIOMPHANT.	Sails Plymouth 1730/12 for Scapa via Irish Sea. Speed 18knots. (C in C.WA. 1940/11.)
FYTCHLEY.	Arrived 2303/11. (FOIC. Greenock 2315/11.

MOST SECRET

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

A. 110 11/12 reference my A 102 of 10/12. CHAIN in company with four destroyers leaves Portsmouth 1100/11 for Spithead and remains at Spithead until 1600/11. Provide protection from 1100/11 until 1600/11. CHAIN then leaves Spithead at 1600/11 provide escort from 1600/11 until dusk /11 as arranged in par (a) of my A. 102 of 10/12. (H.Q.F.C. 0430/11 to 11 Group)

A. 120 11/12 reference A. 117 11/12. Admiralty have notified postponement of CHAIN. Expected time of departure Portsmouth not yet known. Further information will be signalled as soon as available. (H.Q.F.C. 2100/11)

MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air Searches. To-day SA.2 and SA.3. (C. in C. Rosyth 0710/11.)
Assessments. (C.in C.Rosyth 2114/11.)

Fighter Patrol. Patrol of Blenheim A/C from Buchan Ness to Flamborough and return.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0712/11.)

Bordeaux.
Lorient. AP/656 11/12. Operations for tonight 11/12 December. (A) Available aircraft of No. 22 Squadron to submarine targets in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. (B) Available aircraft Nos. 53 and 59 squadrons to submarines and dockyard targets at Lorient.
(H.Q.C.C. 1418/11 to 16 Group, Thorney.)

Brest. No. 217 Sqdn. to attack FRIESENLANDT in dock tonight.(H.Q.C.C.1420/11 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Patrols. BEAT being flown this evening.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1642/11.)

Arbroath. Request very early action to render following positions available for Beacons. Night flying cannot start until this is done. (R.A.N.A.S. 1743/11 to Adty.)

Following from Air Ministry "X728 Cipher 10/12 begins:- Information received that kites are flown by some A A formation in conditions of good visibility by day from Branchester Beach 28 miles West of Cromer. Request full particulars of purpose and authority for flying if known. Pilots have not been warned of A A activities in this particular locality. Ends.
This appears to concern Admiralty.
Request you reply direct.
(DACOAST 4.2136/11 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

CONVOY FS57.	BOOTY attacked by A/C in 51° 37' N. 1° 14'E (LONDONDERRY 1045/11)2 A/C.4 Bombs. No hits. (LONDONDERRY 1056/11.)
CONVOY FN57.	PILOT shadowed by 2 A/C in 51° 33' N. 1° 7' E. (CONVOY 1058/11.) shadowed by 1 A/C. in 51° 54' N. 1° 37' E. (WESTON 1408/11.). Being attacked in 51° 44' N. 1° 25' E.(Rosyth W/T 1409/11.) One A/C circling in 52° 21'N. 2° 1' E. A seaplane. (VIMIERA 1855 and 1910/11.)
LANARK. (F357)	(British, 1904 Tons) Attacked by A/C. in Barrow Deep. (North Foreland Radio 1444/11.)
SAXON QUEEN. (F557.)	(British, 482 tons) Slightly damaged by Air Attack today, but able proceed up river A.M./12 under own power. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1818/11 to C in C. Nore.)
TOR. (F.S.57.)	(Swedish, 1130 Tons) Slightly damaged by Air Attack today, but can proceed up river AM/12 under own power. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1818/11.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

CACHALOT.	Homeward Route Azores to Plymouth. (F.O.C.N.P. 1106/11 to Western Patrol.)
SUNFISH.	My 2139/9. Reports sank one ship at 1509/6 in 62° 7'N.5°6'E.; attacked one ship at 1602/6 in 62° 58' N. 6° 59'E, no hits; and probably one hit on ship at 1516/7 in 62° 10' N.6° 5'E. (VAS. 1211/11).
RUBIS.	To leave Patrol at 1800/13. Route. (S.9.1417/11.)
L.23.	Sailed for Scapa escorted by THIRLMERE. E.T.A. 0900/12. (S.9.1439/11).
STURGEON.	Arrived. (S.6. 1522/11.)
UPHOLDER) UNIQUE.) USK.)	Sailed USK, UNIQUE 1442. E.T.A. Gibraltar UPHOLDER 0700/17, USK 0700/18, UNIQUE 1200/18. (C in C. Portsmouth 1607/11.)
PROTEUS.	Your 1146/10. Onward route.(C. in C. WA.1634/11.)
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1736/11.)
O.21.	E.T.A. 0917/12. (O.21. 1920/11 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

ROBINIA. Fishing off Iceland.

(Trawler) My 1742/10. X.O. Seidis Fiord reports she trawled up one Mine which exploded and another Mine exploded on bow. Crew abandoned ship and she is presumed sunk, about 14 miles E.N.E. of Glettinganes. Master states he had permission from Grimsby to fish in this area. (F.O. Iceland 0932/11 to Adty.)
My 0932/11. Master reports probably 11 other British Trawlers in same area. Am endeavouring to recall all British Trawlers fishing off East Coast.
(F.O. Iceland 1734/11 to Adty.)

Thames.

My 1055/10. River now normal.
(F.O.I.C. London 1501/11.)

Firth of Forth.

Local Searched Channel named "Grangemouth East" is established as follows.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1534/11.)

B.S.47.

TEVIOT BANK escorted by ICARUS to lay on 14/12 or as soon after as possible for 6½ miles 328° from 56° 10' N. 1° 23' W. No mines to be laid North of 56° 16' N.
(D.O.D.H. 1619/11.)

Harwich.

H.J. reports A/C has just dropped 2 objects in water 2 miles North of B.4. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1910/11 to C. in C. Nore.)
A/C dropped 3 black cylinders 4 feet long in 200° 1 mile from B.8. Buoy, at 1310/11.
(C. in C. Nore 2053/11 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CASTLETON	After peak and tiller-flat flooded and bilge-suction choked. Position 53° 20' N 5° 40' W., May be necessary to proceed to Milford Haven. (CASTLETON 0815/11 to N.O.I.C.Liverpool) proceed to Milford Haven (C. in C., W.A., 1058/11 to CASTLETON) Intend sail CASTLETON for Portsmouth (F.O. Milford Haven, 1811/11 to C. in C., W.A.) Your 1811 CASTLETON is not to sail until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2234/11 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
ADAMANT	(Admty Dumb Lighter) Ashore on Trinity Sands, Humber. Apparently undamaged. Will attempt refloat Friday. (C.S.O.H.A. Grimsby 0900/11 to F.O.Humber)
DIONYSSIOS STATHATOS	Broken down in 58° 19' N., 22° 15' W., CAROLINA THORDEN standing by to tow. (EDINBURGH 1030/11 to A.C.O.S.) Crew abandoned ship, taken off by CAROLINA THORDEN. Master remains on board. (Valentia Radio 1504/11) Abandoned in sinking condition. All crew saved. (Valentia Radio 1751/11)
PETWORTH	(British 972 tons) Slightly damaged by collision with tug VINCIA a.m/5. (N.O.I.C Ramsgate 1130/11 to Admty.)
AGHIA EIRINI	On side on rocks one cable from Carraun Point, S. end of Achill Island with heavy seas breaking over her. Local view is that she will become a total wreck. (.F.O.I.C. Belfast 1703/11 to C. in C., W.A.)
NORTHCOATES	Arrived 1608 in tow of A/S Trawler CAPE NYE-METSKI (A.C.O.S. 1835/11 to Admty.)
2 Lifeboats	A/C report 2 lifeboats with survivors in 58° 58' N., 11° 18' W., at 1835. (C. in C., W.A., 1918/11 to VETERAN)
BURNHAM	Have sustained damage as follows. Position 55° 45' N., 13° 4' W., (BURNHAM 1921/11 to C. in C., W.A.)
ENGLISH TRADER	My 0212/6. BRIDGEWATER has been sent to assist. (C. in C., S.A. 2139/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS-Contd.

Ships in Distress

In the case of the following ships which have made Distress Signals it has not been possible up to the present to render assistance. Request I may be informed if any further information is received regarding any of these ships.

SERINGA at 0306/6 in 57° 52' N., 23° 56' W. Damage not stated- Required assistance.

SALTWICK at 1424/5 in 57° 10' N., 26° 30' W Steering gear smashed.

ASHCREST at 1019/8 in 55° 12' N., 10° 02'W Ship unmanageable. Tugs assistance essential. Search by aircraft and Surface Vessels has failed to locate.

MERCHANT at 1144/6 15 miles East of Inishtrahull. Search has failed to locate.

NYLAND at 0750/6 Aground on West Rock Isle of Hull. Tug SCHELDE has searched but cannot locate.

(C. in C., W.A., 2350/11)

/N.F. 31.....

MOST SECRET.

11.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Situation at 0900/11 (D.T.D. 1107/11 to C. in C. H.F.).
H.X. 91.	Arrived less COMANCHEE, PACIFIC PIONEER, SALTWICK, SPAR, SKARAAS, TREKIEVE, (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1039/11).
F.N. 57.	Sailed 0818/11 20 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1042/11).
F.S. 56.	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 0916/11).
O.B. 260.	Route (D.T.D. 1556/11).
H.X. 92.	About half convoy scattered (D.T.D. to C. in C. H.F. 1107/11).
S.C. 15.	37 ships, arrived, 7 Norwegian, 3 Greek, 1 Dutch remainder British (D.S. 463, 11/12).
E.N. 38.	All 7 ships arrived (N.C.S.O Oban 1730/11
F.S. 59.	Sailed 2300/11, 16 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2335/11).
F.N. 61 F.S. 62 F.S. 63	Amend and continue my 1019/6, convoy forecast (C. in C. Rosyth 1437/11).
H.X. 95.	Sailing telegrams Escorts AUSONIA, VOLTAIRE (C.O.H.C. Halifax. 1120/11 1115/11).
W.N. 51.	Amend my 2041/8. Number of ships to read 10. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1511/11).
O.B. O. 257.	Escort NORWICH CITY (N.C.S.O. Oban 1045/11).
F.N. 55.	BULLFINCH sailed to Join F. N. 55 0005/11. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0007/11).
F.N. 57.	Southend 11/12 departure for Methil H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY with Convoy F.N. 57. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1051/11).

Great Yarmouth 11/12 departure Group 12 GRAMPIAN, DOROTHY LAMBERT, SUMA and JAMES LAY at 1707 to join F.N. 57. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1806/11, to C. in C. Nore).

/W.N. 51.....

MOST SECRET.

11.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (continued)

Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 51.

0933 CURACOA left Scapa for convoy W.N. 51 (A.C.O.S. 1015/11)

O.B. 257.

Position course and speed of convoy at 0830, 312° Mull Of Galloway, 19 miles 341° 8 knots. (ANTELOPE, 0901/11 to ACTIVE).

Liverpool and Milford Haven sections of O.B. 257 expect o arrive at rendezvous four hours late. Have sent HEATHER and LADY MADELEINE to reinforce ANTELOPE and retain ACHATES and PICOTEE with Clyde and Oban sections who will proceed at slow speed. Consider unlikely all sections to join up before tomorrow forenoon. Propose ANTELOPE should proceed arrive Londonderry in daylight today. (ACTIVE 1115/11 to C. in C. W.A.).

Commodore requests you will turn back so as to join before dark. My position course and speed are 055°19' N 005°59'W 315 °7 knots. (ANTELOPE, 1250/11 to ACTIVE).

Estimate O.B. 257 will meet Clyde portion of H.N. 38 about 2000 tonight in 056°00'N 007° 08'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1452/11 to ANTELOPE, ACTIVE, etc.).

H.X. 92.

To keep clear of O.B. 256. After passing through 59° 15' N 13° 44'W H.X. 92 steer direct to splitting position (C. in C. W. A. 1128/11 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)

Cancel my 1128/11 To avoid U. boat in 58° 30' N. 11°00' W. amended route for H.X. 92. (C. in C.W.A. 1252/11 to VETERAN., etc.).

F.S. 58.

Number 11/12 Departure LL Trawler HORTENSIA at 0920 to join F.S. 58 for Yarmouth (F.O. Number 1100/11).

/F.S. 58.
FRANKLIN.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (continued)

Convoys (contd).

F.S. 58. FRANKLIN.

Adm. 1945/10 (re taking in hand of FRANKLIN) and FRANKLIN's 1746/10. If hydographic instruction No. 15. is completed FRANKLIN should be sailed for Southen with F.S. 58 tomorrow Thursday. (C. in C. Nore 1210/11 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

C. in C. Nore's 1210/11. Hydrographic instruction No 15 completed intend to proceed at 0830 tomorrow to join F.S. 58 at South Shipwash buoy. (FRANKLIN 1932/11).

E.N. 40. W.N. 53.

Act as additional A.A. escort to E.N.40. sailing from Methil at 2230/12. On meeting transfer to W.N. 53 due Cape Wrath 2030/14 and Duncansby 1030/15. Code word for E.N. 40 PADDLE and for W.N. 53 MUSTER. Keep steam at immediate notice off Methil 12/12 and be prepared to slip cable as necessary to engage enemy aircraft. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1315/11, to FLEETWOOD amended 1643/11).

On meeting transfer to Convoy W.N. 52, S.O. STELLA CAPELLA A.A. Escort JASON, due Duncansby Head 1050/12. On meeting convoy E.N. 40 sailing from Methil at 2230/12 and expected Buchanness 1200/13 transfer to that convoy. (R.A.D.H.F. 1353/11 to ALYNBANK).

E.N.40.

2230/12 H.M.T.'s KING SOL, ARAB. Additional escort FLEETWOOD. 23 ships (10 overseas). Code words E.N. 40 PADDLE E.N.L. portion MONITOR E.N.O. portion MIXTURE. (N.O.S.O. Methil 1551/11).

H.X. 92.

If not in contact with part of H.X. 92 proceed to position given by ROTORUA (C. IN C. W.A. 1516/11 to VETERAN) (See U Boat Campaign).

My 1516 If in company part of HX 92 detach one destroyer to hunt submarine and assist ROTORUA torpedoed in 058° 56' N 011° 20' W at 1400. (C. in C. W.A. 1618/11 to VETERAN).

/S.L. 57.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	**Shipping**
S.L. 57	My 1528/10. Destroyer of 3rd Escort Group are to escort BULOLO and WORCESTERSHIRE outward on 16/12 and are to rendezvous with S.L. 57 S at 1000/18 in position 54° 35' N., 17° 40' W. F.O.C. Northern Patrol is requested to route A.M.C.'s accordingly Remainder of 3rd Escort Group is to be sailed to rendezvous with S.L. 57 at 1000/8. (C. in C., W.A., 1534/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, etc.)
S.L. 56	Cancel my 0032/11. When detached from FORMIDABLE proceed to meet S.L. 56 estimated position at 2000/11 055° 50' N., 013° 30' W., (route) Convoy is probably scattered. (C. in C., W.A., 1728/11 to AMBUSCADE)
	Following ships in company. My p.c. and s. Have sustained damage (details) (BURNHAM, 1921/11)
	C. in C., W.A., 1728/11. Cancel my 0130/11 (Capt D. 12. 2103/11 to O.i/c A/S Est., Campbeltown, etc.)
SATURNUS **Swedish Tanker**	My 1844/5 and Admty. 1649/6. Orders from Swedish Embassy Stockholm diverted SATURNUS New York arrived 10/12 sailed 0530 G.M.T. 11/12 (route) due Petsamo (date) (1151/11
	Your 1259/10. Swedish Authroities have now ordered Swedish Ship SATURNUS to call New York for route instructions. (D.E.W.D 1903/11 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)
TRoop Convoys W.S. 5 A.	Admty. 2250/6 (A/S escort for slow groups of W.S. 5 A) NAIAD, wearing the flag of C.S. 15 and BONAVENTURE have been detailed. (C. in C., H.F., 1753/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Interception of French Ships

Your 1224/5. Policy is confirmed, but French territorial waters may be infringed to intercept unescorted vessels as well as escorted ones. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1133/11)

Martinique

Navy Dept. From Martinique. Admiral Robert left Fort de France p.m./8 in French Gunboat BARFLEUR and arrived Point A Pitre a.m/9. Believed his stay will last two days. (N.A.Washington 1045/11 to Admty.)

Following further information received: BARFLEUR arrives back at Martinique today and will depart for French Guiana returning about 20/12. (N.A.Washington 1209/11 to Admty)

Dakar Ships Arrived

From Navy Department. From Dakar 9/12 following French ships arrived from North VILLE DE VERDUN, COND, SOYESQUIEU and SAN PEDRO. Destination VILLE DE VERDUN is Madagascar. (.N.A.Washington 1100/1)

COMPIEGNE

French ship COMPIEGNE will probably sail p.m./12 for Casablanca (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1141/11 to F.O.I.C. Gib)

My 1141/11 French COMPIEGNE sails from Lisbon 0500/12. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1524/11, F.O.C.N.P., 1930/11 to Western Patrol, F.O.C.N.A. 2117/11 to N.A.Stn.)

My 2117 COMPIEGNE will reach R.V. for escort at 3 miles limit off Lisbon at 0700/12 G.M.T. and will wait for escort if it is late. (F.O.C.N.A., 2335/11 to N.A. Stn)

My 2117 and my 2335. If COMPIEGNE is intercepted and unescorted she is to be sent in to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2337/11 to ENCOUNTER)

WYOMING OREGON

Request you ask French N.A. whether his Government will agree to WYOMING or OREGON calling in at Gibraltar to repatriate 88 French merchant seamen and officers anxious to return to unoccupied France. WYOMING sails from U.K. for Toulon on 13/12 and OREGON on 15/12. (Hd. of M., 1225/11 to N.A.Madrid)

/French S/M....

MOST SECRET

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French S/M Reliefs — N.A. Madrid's 1815/10. Intend acting in accordance with your 2237/16/10.(French Forces proceeding to and from Casablanca Not to be interfered with) (F.O.C.N.A. 1724/11 to Admty.)

North Atlantic

BERWICK — Your 1630/10. (Completion of BERWICK) Very satisfactory. (1st S.L., to .A.S., Gibraltar, 1043/11)

Operation "Ration" — My 0946/9. Force of 4 destroyers will be used, with RENOWN kept at short notice (F.O.C.N.A., to Admty., 1230/11)

Rio de Oro — No suspicious activities. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, to Admty., 1544/11) See U-Boat Campaign)

Italian S/M's Tangier — Your 1550/9 (re Submarines at Tangier) According to official notes to H.M. Ambassador from Minister for Foreign Affairs these submarines are M. BIANCHI and B.BRIN. This confirmed from Spanish Ministry of Marine. (N.A.Madrid 1315/11 to S.O.I., Gib)

Fuel for Norwegian Whale Catchers — Following is text of C.G. New York's 1130/6 to you which you could not decypher: At request of Admty. and as agreed by Jersey Company please arrange with Manager of Tagus Oil Co. deliver about 15/12 maximum 1000 tons of fuel oil to ten ex-Norwegian Whale Catchers on passage to U.K. for requisitioning, asking him to maintain secrecy as to why this supply of oil is required.(ends) Your 1220/7 to C.G. New York was undecypherable by him. (Head of M. 1557/11 to Consul, Ponta Delgada)

/ARK ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

ARK ROYAL
FORMIDABLE

Para 5 A of your 1917/24/11. To enable FORMIDABLE to carry two fighter Squadrons at expence of torpedo spotter reconnaissances on certain operations propose ARK ROYAL disembark Fulmar or Skua Squadron at Gibraltar on being relieved by FORMIDABLE If external long range tanks are applicable to Albacore request these be provided for FORMIDABLE's torpedo spotter R/C A/C. (S.O.Force H., 1924/11 to Admty.)

Intend putting ARK ROYAL at 6 hours notice until a.m./15 to make good defective joints in engine room. Consider this necessary in view of forthcoming operations. (S.O.Force H., 1926/11 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE

To proceed Simonstown for repairs when ITAPE's prisoners have been embarked. (C. in C.,SA 1031Z/11)

utilising

DEVONSHIRE

Request you consider/DEVONSHIRE on her return voyage to U.K. for escorting available homeward bound liners. (D.O.D.(F) 2140/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

ASTURIAS

Your 0920/27 (ASTURIAS taken in hand for urgent repairs) Request ASTURIAS may be sailed for square L. 32 when ready. (R.A.S,A D., 1238Z/11)

Your 1337Z/10 not yet transferred on completion ASTURIAS is to be sailed for L. 32 to join South American Division S.A.Station. Then as ordered by R.A. S.A.D. (C. in C., S.A., 1019Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Whalers

Your 1257/10. (Undesirable that Whalers fuel again within 3 months at Portuguese Port.) Whalers fuelled at Walvis Bay on passage St. Helena to Cape. (C. in C., S.A. 1021K/11 to Admty.)

/Enemy Unit....

MOST SECRET

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Enemy Unit	D/F Bearings at 2250Z/9 indicate probability of German surface unit near 021° 00' N., 031° 00' W. Further bearings at 2117/10 give slight indication unit has moved further south or west. (C. in C., S.A., 1125/11 to R.A.S.A.D.,etc.)
Raider	C. 3. report German Raider after trying to escape to north is now approaching River Plate, she may R.V. a tanker off Argentine Coast. (S.O.I. Montevideo 16242/11 to Admty)
Seaward Defence Force S.A.	My 2222/10 para (C) (re enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) of personnel of A/S Ships to be based in Africa) Defence Dept. now definitely contend that Admiralty can by order in Council apply N.D.A. to S.D.F. under visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act, 1933, Section 4, and that enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) is unnecessary. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1235B/11 to Admty.)
Wreckage	Master BENWYVIS reports passing quantity of barrels, loaves of bread and tins between 0900 and 1400/9 in approximately 030° S., and 014° E., and on his course for Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1612B/11 to Admty)
CANTON	Your 1055/10. It is proposed that CANTON should return to Freetown without calling at U.K. unless you particularly wish her to do so. (D.O.D.(F) 1705/11, to C. in C., S.A.)
HIDLEFJORD Suspicious Ship	Your 1131/9 and my 1216/9. Master of HIDLEFJORD has been interrogated. Suspicious vessel passed on nearly opposite course without altering course, five splashes like shots falling reported seen about two miles off when suspicious vessel was abeam, no guns heard or flashes seen. Vessel reported has two masts, 1 funnel amidships, dark hull, coal burner. Consider improbable that this ship was a Raider or fired shots though splashes in water cannot be explained. (C. in C., S.A., 1930/11 to Admty)

/ENGLISH TRADER....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

ENGLISH TRADER

Position of ENGLISH TRADER at 0101/11 was 020° 57' N., 019° 05' W., Ship is being told to give her position to Freetown at 0400/12 unless you have found her by then (C. in C., S.A., 2013N/11 to BRIDGEWATER)

Foreign Legion Movement

Spears Mission London for Admiralty and Ministry of Shipping. After conference with Governor Duala and Colonel Commanding Legion following proposals urgently submitted. (FORT LAMY, CAPO OLMO, TOUAREG, arrangements) (20 M.Mission Duala 1925/11 to W.O.)

Admty. 2353/10. Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos, states CASAMANCE now nearly fully loaded with cargo for U.K. has left with some cargo for Accra and Takoradi and will complete with cargo for U.K. there. Propose she should continue as arranged. If FORT LAMY proposed by N.C.S.O. Duala in his 1819/10/12 not considered suitable suggest CAPO OLMO due Freetown 12/12 proceed to Duala and take M.T. and Stores. Am arranging for troops to be ready by (date) (C. in C., Africa 1945 N/11, to Admty.)

Re movement of French Troops with equipment to Port Sudan, position now as follows:
For Foreign Legion personnel British Transport NEURALIA. CASAMANCE not now available for M.T. etc.,
For French Brigade understood to be about 1600 personnel with full equipment regret no British ships available.
Following French Ships are under consideration subject to your confirmation as to suitability. For personnel and some equipment TOUAREG and CAPO PLMO. For balance of equipment (including replace of CASAMANCE) TOMBOUCTOU, FORT BINGER, INDO-CHINOIS and CHATEAUROUX.
Proposals all subject to escort arrangements which cannot be considered by Admty until information as to availability suitability and speed confirmed. (D.S.T. 2102/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

PROTEUS — To sail for Portsmouth as convenient. (C. in C., Med. to F.O.C.N.A. 1125/11)

RORQUAL — Leave (position) to arrive Alexandria sanctuary (Capt. S.1. 1445/11 to RORQUAL)

Local Defence — Your 1559/13 and 1335/7. Concur to release of 6- in guns from Haifa to Turkey. Further changes. (D. of L.D., to C. in C., Med. 1707/11)

Support to Army Western Desert — My 1635/10. TERROR in Sollum Bay commenced bombardment at 1030/11. Joined by APHIS and LADYBIRD at 1000, harassing enemy's retirement. Strong Westerly wind hampered gunboatd' movements.
3 Destroyers in company. BARHAM and VALIANT under F.O.I.B.S. in close support and will also bombard if suitable targets presented. ULLUSTRIOUS with 3rd C.S. (? in offing) providing fighter protection. (C. in C., Med., 1101/11 to Admty.)

My 1635/10. TERROR, gunboats and 4 destroyers have been bombarding neighbourhood of Sollum during today, harassing enemy's retirement. TERROR now returning all ammunition expended. Gunboats continue harassing fire of Sollum tonight, and then returning Mersa Matruh to fuel from destroyers and re-ammunition.
BARHAM, VALIANT and YORK bombarding Bardia and targets in vicinity at 0800/12 (C. in C., Med. 2225/11 to Admty) Press communique on this, see 12/12.

Proposed communique (C. in C., Med. 2250/11)

Valona Bombed — Operational Summary No 184 up to 1200 hours 11/12. Greece. Day 10/12. 5 Blenheims attacked Valona town and harbour. 1 ship received direct hit on stern. (H.Q.,R.A.F., M.E., 1313/11)

/F.A.A. Attack.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

F.A.A. Attack, El Adem, Bardia.

Aircraft of F.A.A. also bombed El Adem. Bombays dropped 6,400 lbs of bombs on retreating enemy troops and M.T. vehicles in the Bardia area. F.A.A. aircraft successfully bombed the barracks at Bardia and the escarpment road between Bardia and Sollum Army forces captured and occupied Maktila Camp and invested Sidi Barrani on 10/12. (H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E. 1316/11)

Greece Degaussing

Your 2101/9. Sufficient information to enable merchant ships to be degaussed was supplied to Greek N.A. in London on 9/4. No objection to later and more detailed information being supplied nor to Greek Officers being trained at Alexandria. Greek ships are now granted D.G. facilities at all British ports, see A.M. 1844/15/11. (D.T.D. 1918/11 to C. in C., Med)

Submarines

454. Consequent on Admiralty 1228/29 it is intended to redispose of 1st S/M Flotilla as follows: (1) 'O' Class 'P' Class 'T' Class and H.M.S. RORQUAL based and operated from Alexandria (2) 'U' Class based at and operated from Malta. (C. in C., Med., 2117/11 to V.A.Malta)

M.N.B.D.O. to sail in W.S. 6.

Following for Cs.in C., from Chiefs of Staff. No 30. It has been agreed that the Royal Marine group of the M.N.B.D.O. will be sent to Middle East in W.S. 6. Decision is dependent on shipping as forecast being available. Details of R.M. group. Total M.N.B.D.O. Officer 248, O.Rs 4911. (W.O. 2215/11 to C. in C., M.E.)

Operations Summary

Operations and movements period 15/11 to 21/11.
F.O.C. 1 B.S. in B RHAM with VALIANT and EAGLE and 7 destroyers left Alexandria 16/11 for Suda Bay to cover following movements returning 19/11. Fast convoy 5 ships 3 C.S. and SYDNEY left Alexandria 15/11 arrived Piraeus 16/11 with 3400 R.A.F. and Army Base personnel and stores, 1700 men being embarked in cruisers. 3 C.S. returned to Alexandria 17/11 except YORK

/who embarked...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations Summary-Contd

who embarked one Battalion Black Watch at Port Said 18/11 disembarking them at Suda Bay 19/11 when returning to Alexandria YORK was unsuccessfully attacked by 3 T.B. aircraft at 1025/19 when 40 miles N.E. of Suda Bay. Convoy A.N. 7. of 8 ships left Alexandria and Port Said 15/11 arrived Piraeus 19/11. One M.T. ship left Port Said 19/11 arrived Piraeus 21/11.

V.A.L.F. in ORION with AJAX took general charge of these operations visiting Piraeus and returning to Alexandria 20/11. 4 destroyers carried out A/S operation from Piraeus to Kissamo Bay and North Coast of Crete 17/11. Greek troop movements in Aegean also took place under cover of those operations.

(2) Operation and movement 22/11 to 30/11. Operation M.B. 9 as reported in My 1307/29/11 and my 1657/2/12. Following additional convoy movements took place under cover of operation M.B.9 A.S. 7 8 ships left Piraeus 27/11 arrived Port Said 30/11.

(3) Operations 1/12 to 8/12.
3 C.S. based at Suda Bay to cover following movements. MANCHESTER leaving Suda Bay 3/12 for Malta. Convoys A.N. 8 5 ships leaving Port Said and Alexandria 2/12 A.S. 6 9 ships leaving Piraeus 4/12 A.N. 9 3 ships leaving Port Said 5/12. YORK proceeded in company MANCHESTER until dark 3/12 then returning to Suda Bay. GLASGOW hit with 2 torpedoes from 2 S 79 K aircraft in Suda Bay at 1540/3 reported in my 2205/3. GLOUCESTER escorted GLASGOW on passage to Alexandria until 1800/4. GLASGOW made good 16 knots arriving Alexandria 5/12. 3 C.S. then covered Aegean convoy returning to Alexandria 7/12. At 0837/6 and 0953/6 2 S 79 K torpedo bombers approached 3 C.S. in position 035° 45' N. 025° 20' E., retiring on both occasions when fire was opened at long range. V.A.L.F. with 7 C.S. left Alexandria 7/12 to cover convoy and to ail for Piraeus. 3 Swordfish disembarked to Heraklion carried out attack and diversion on Stampalia, Piscopi, Niscopi, Niseres and Kost on 1/12. (C. in C., Med. 1015/11 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

B. 5 10. — 3 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escort for Convoy B.S. 10 (Air H.Q. Aden 2330/10)

Mines — A.C.N.B.'s 1122/10 (re mining of SILKWORTH) Similar action taken on E.I. Station. (C. in C., E.I., 0530Z/11 to Admty)

YAMAYURI MARU to be Intercepted — Japanese ship YAMAYURI MARU was at Kismayu on 10/10. If met at sea she is to be taken or sent under armed guard into convenient British Port for examination but see my 0824+ 25/10+(? 0812Z/25/10 intended giving danger zoned in which shipping navigate at their own cost.) (Description) (C. in C., E.I., 0614Z/11)

SS QUEEN ELIZABETH — British Ship QUEEN ELIZABETH has not arrived Trincomalee and is probably proceeding direct to Singapore as I advised her by W/T to do so if her fuel permitted My signal required a reply but none has been received. (C. in C., E.I., 0630Z/11 to Admty.)

GLIMMAREN — Admty. 1351/11/10. Suspected of carrying contraband. (C. in C., E.I., 0650Z/11 to Admty.)

Kismayu Bombardment SOUTHAMPTON — My 2020/10 Air Report. Inaccurate anti-aircraft fire encountered. No enemy aircraft seen. SOUTHAMPTON's fire observed but fading light and distance of aircraft prevented observation of result. All aircraft consisting 4 Hurricanes and one Glen Martin returned safely. (C. in C., E.I., 1006Z/11 to Admty.etc.)

My 1513/7. List of ships present in Kismayu. (C. in C., E.I., 1120Z/11 to Admty.)

/Troop Transports...

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Troop Transports

Your 1722/9. The ships which have been released are most suitable for Indian troops but not for British. Very few have refrigerators, and none are capable of the endurance required by you at present working on Indian requirements and the U.S.Convoys running every six weeks. All available ships now at my disposal are required. DUNERA now en route Suez and NIEUW HOLLAND acting as hospital ship Durban are the only ships which could be spared and have the endurance and speed required. (P.S.T.O. India 1234/11 to D.S.T.)

U.S. 7.

Departure KINGSTON to join U.S. 7 at 1730Z/11. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1734Z/11)

China

Raider

Additional information. Repetition of his 1607Z/10. (C. in C., China, 0557/Z/11) Further, no gun mounted aft. (C. in C., China, 1039Z/11)

Tankers

Your 0551/1/11. Please confirm you have taken tankers 1 to 5 and report dates of sailing from Shanghai. (Min of Shipping 1721/11 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

NIAGARA
ST CLAIR

Your 1400/10. (p.c. and e.t.a. of NIAGARA) Is ST CLAIR in company? (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to NIAGARA, 1914/11)

My 2236/10. NIAGARA now located. ST CROIX reported hove to in approx. position 420 miles 070° from Cape Nova Scotia at 0415/11 ST. CLAIR still unaccounted for. Endeavour to locate and escort ST. CROIX towards St. John's N.F. subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A. 3. B.S. to MONTCLARE 0916/11)

Your 1201/11 (not to F.O. 3 B.S.) Message 0705/11 originated from NIAGARA as agreeing with N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Position of ST.CLAIR not yet known. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1401/11 to ST. CROIX)

/Discontinue .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

NIAGARA ST CLAIR-- Contd.	Discontinue search. Return to base. (F.O. 3. B.S. 1952/11 to AURANIA, MONTCLARE) Your 1306/8. Expect to arrive in this area at 0800 G.M.T. 12/12. (AURANIA to R.A. 3 B.S. 2030/11) Your 2030/11. Continue searching area until dark 12/12 and then return Halifax. (F.O.3. B.S. to AURANIA, 1816/11)
IDARWALD	DIOMEDE firing incident (C. in C., A.W.I. 1024/11) See German Merchant Ships.
DIOMEDE	Arrived Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1500/11)
ROCKINGHAM ROXBURGH	Cancel my 1 09/7. Both ships developed defects on passage to St. John's N.F. (R.A. 3 B.S. to Admty. 1029/11)
REVENGE	Arrived Halifax. 11/12. (S.O.I.Halifax 1609/11)
Intelligence Jamaica	Proposals to coordinate intelligence in Jamaica area, as counter action to highly organised enemy system. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1511/11 to Admty.)
Contraband and Security	Situation in Trinidad and Jamaica with regard to examination of passengers and cargo in transit very unsatisfactory. Proposals C. in C., A.W.I., 1501/11 to Admty.)
ARACATA Overdue	5378 tons, 13 knots, sailed for Jamaica 16/11 and is overdue at Liverpool since 1/12. This is the fourth boat to disappear on this run. (D.S. 464)
AUSONIA Collision	AISONIA collided with BELTINGE on 5/12 due to parting of tow to after tug when berthed alongside. AUSONIA undamaged. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1655/11)
RHEIN	Intercepted and sunk. (See German Merchant Ships)

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Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Raiders. Convoys in preference to hunting

Whilst likely scale of attack remains A.M.C. in Indian and Pacific Oceans it is considered shore-based aircraft provide reasonable measure of protection in coastal waters. It has been decided therefore that surface forces can be released to operate on ocean trade routes to which the enemy appears to be confining his attacks. As hunting offers little prospects of success it is proposed to employ these forces escorting as many ships as can be got together without imposing a long delay on shipping. Besides protection to ships escorted the consequent reduction on trade routes will reduce risk to unescorted ships. Ships escorted will be spread about twice visibility distance apart by day with object of locating enemy raider. Anticipated these modified convoys will not be greater than four or five ships. Request your views and whether you consider a concerted effort can be made on these lines in Indian Ocean. Similar arrangements are being discussed with N.Z.N.B. for Tasman Sea. (A.C.N.B. 0830Z/11 to C. in C's E.I., China, S.A.)

New Zealand

Oil Stock. Suva

My 0614Z/29. Governor, Suva, reports oil stock at Suva after departure of PINNA as follows:- No known probable dates or means of replenishment. Depth of water does not permit the use of Gold mine reserve pier by ACHILLES or MONOWAI. Estimated monthly consumption by New Zealand Naval units for routine visits escorting troop carrying vessels 600 tons. This does not include fuel required for raider searches which are becoming more frequent. (N.Z.N.B. 0501Z/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BRAKE — Sailed from Vigo 0600 today. (Consul, Vigo, 1055/11, V.A.S. 1406/11, D.D.I.C. 1421/11)

RHEIN Intercepted — RHEIN intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN N.W. of Key West and has set herself on fire. Not yet known whether ship can be saved. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Admty. 0442/11) My 0442 VAN KINSBERGEN reports unable to extinguish fire in RHEIN. Ship has been sunk by gunfire from CARADOC. 43 prisoners on board CARADOC being taken Jamaica. VAN KINSBERGEN reports 1 German seaman killed owing to disobeying orders. Position when intercepted 24.55 N., 83.15 W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152/11)

CORDELIA }
ARKADIA } — Arrived. (Macrae, Galatz 1012/11)

ATLAS — Arrival 10/12 (Valencia, T.H.I. 0504/11)

BABITONGA — N.A. Rio's 1730/10. Subject to compliance with my 1226/10 you are at liberty to move into K.32. (R.A.S.A.D., 1033/11 to AMBERLAND)

PORTLAND — My 1834/30/11 (no trace in W.R.) Following from Navy Dept. PORTLAND arrived Falcahuano 4/10. (N.A. Washington 1625/6, received by cable 1038/11)

MADRID — Left Las Palmas proceeding north at 1900/11 Had recently taken in 1300 tons coal and is believed to have general cargo on board. (Las Palmas 1930/11, F.O.C.N.A., 0825/12, D.S. 464)

IDARWALD. Firing Incident — My 0033/9 (refers to 2131/8 re DIOMEDE, enquiry will be held) Investigation shows that Gunlayer of after Lewis Gun heard a confused shout from irresponsible spectators who were unaware that after gun was not affected by orders given to foremost gun, to effect "When is after machine gun going to open fire" In the heat of the moment he mistook it for an order to open fire which had not been given. Am recommending to C.O. he should take very moderate disciplinary action. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1024/11 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ROTORUA

British, 10,890 tons. (In H.X. 92, Commodore Fitzgerald) S/M distress, 58.56N 11.20 W., ROTORUA attacked by submarine (ROTORUA, 1400/11) Following read. (position) ROTORUA torpedoed 1300 de MESN 1339/11 (Lyness, 1440/11) Crew of ROTORUA not yet rescued, (CARDITA 1441/11) If not in contact with part of H.X. 92, proceed to position given by ROTORUA (C. in C., W.A., to VETERAN 1516/11) My 1516. If in company part of H.X. 92, detach one destroyer to hunt and assist ROTORUA (C. in C., W.A. to VETERAN, 1618/11)

Request you will sail Tug BRIGAND to assistance of SS ROTORUA torpedoed at 1300 today in position 58° 56' N., 11° 20' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/11 to A.C.O.S.)

In view of your 2158/11 cancel my 1520/11 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0015/12 to TRELAWNEY)

My 2235/10. Fleet Tug BRIGAND sailed Port Z.A. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0914/11 to TRELAWNEY)

Keep well clear of position of ROTORUA torpedoed in position 058° 56' N., 011° 20' W., at 1400. (C. in C., W.A., 1554/11 to BROKE)

CARDITA

British tanker, 8237 tons. In convoy H.X. 92. S/M distress, 58.56 N., 11.20 W CARDITA attacked by submarine. (Lyness, T.O.R. 1505/11) No damage to CARDITA reported and she opened fire on enemy and claims direct hit on conning tower. (See S/M's attacked)

TOWA

Dutch 5419 tons. Torpedoed 58.49 N., 10.09W at 1900/11. Survivors picked up by MATABELE (See 12/12)

/In the.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

In the cases of the following ships which were torpedoed as shown such search as has been possible has failed to locate either ships or survivors. Request any further information:-

LADY GLANELY	0415/2. 55.00 N., 22.00 W.
VICTOR ROSS	0957/2. 56.04 N., 18.30 W.,
FARMSUM	2147/2. 52.11 N., 22.56 W.,
CALABRIA	2008/8. 52.43 N., 18.07 W.,
EMPIRE JAGUAR	2039/9. 51.34 N., 17.35 W.,
	(C. in C., W.A., 2350/1 to Admty.)

H.X. 92 — Following are survivors recovered, VETERAN 2, WOLVERINE 6. Further unknown by 2 trawlers EBOR WYKE and 1 other. Your 2034. Proceeded with WOLVERINE to overtake H.X. 92 and escort B portion to Liverpool. CHELSEA joins me en route 056° 30' N., 008° 00' W. (VETERAN, 2319/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Submarines Reported

2320/10	D.F. probable U-Boat, unreliable fix, 50.50N 07.10 W., (V.A.S. to S/M's Area B. 0119/11)
1209	D.F. probable U-Boat, in area 50' radius from 58.30 N., 11.00 W., (D.D.I.C. 1254/11) (Capt S. 9. to L.23, 1609/11) Cancel my 1609 (Capt S.9. 1717/11)
1400	A.F. message, 58.56 N., 11.20 W., at 1300/12 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1523/11)
06362/10	D.F. bearings at 06362/10 indicate U-Boats operating Cape Verde Is. are probably to south westward. (C. in C., S.A., to KENT, etc., 1320/11)
2007	W. of Ireland, E. of 15° W., very indefinite (D.S. 464)
1553	S.W. of Ireland, about 50' N., indefinte (Italian)(D.S. 464)
1752	53°-54° N., 18°-20° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 464)
1741	49°-50° N., 17°-19° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 464)
2008	About 53° N., 15° - 20° W., indefinite (German) (D.S. 464)

MOST SECRET

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11.12.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

? — Your 0855/11. If contact has not been made return to Ardrossan. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1247/11 to PRUDENT)

Rio de Oro — My 1612/22/11 (Investigate report Rio de Oro or Canary Is. used by Italian U-Boats) and my 1558/27/11 (Report re Canary Is. Strongly doubted) Consul Teneriffe reports C. 1. that there are no suspicious activities on the coast of Rio de Oro (S.O.I. Gib, 1544/11 to Admty.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions — Italian- No further information from Azores area.
1 may arrive Gironde during the night.
1 was in about 53° 25' N., 19° 30' W., at 1950/10.
1 outward bound possibly vicinity Porcupine Bank.
1 may be homeward bound off S.W. Ireland.

German- Situation remains obscure.
1 should arrive Lorient tonight.
1 may be S.W. of Ireland bound for Lorient
1 possibly 52° to 54° N., about 20° W.
1 may be N.W. Rockall.
1 was in 50° 50' N., 7° 10' W., at 2320/10 (D.D.I.C. 1216/11)

Submarines Attacked

1418 — Direct on submarine, volume oil in air (CARDITA, 1418/11) See Ships Attacked

Detach portion of escort to deal with S/M reported hit by CARDITA in 58.56 N., 11.20 W. Aircraft cooperating. (C. in C., W.A., 1658/11 to BROKE)

Your 1658. SALADIN, SARDONYX anti- S/M out of action.
Consider reduction escort not justifiable.
p.c. and s. Weather. (BROKE 1832/11)
No further information of enemy movements since CARDITA reported direct hit on U-Boat (C. in C., W.A., 1950/11 to VETERAN)

/CARDITA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

12.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

Northern Patrol. R.A. N.P. 1092/N P 3000 dated 29th November. I fully endorse my predecessor's view that it is important to maintain ten trawlers on patrol to cover Iceland Faeroes passage.

Request that until the number of Northern Patrol Trawlers can be augmented the four Kingston class trawlers may be exchanged with vessels more suitable for the atrenuous conditions of this service.
(C. in C. H.F. 1412/12 to Adty).

T.B's G.13 and G.15. Dutch Torpedo boats G13 and G15 are suitable for use as H.D.P.V's Belfast. Request that may be so allocated.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1621/12 to Adty.)

Destroyers for Mediterranean. My 2250/6. Two destroyers of the 5th D.F. are required for an Operation in the Mediterranean and to remain there temporarily. One of these is to be JAGUAR. The other should be one of the two destroyers detailed in accordance with para.7 of my 2250/6. The second of these latter may return home from R/V. (1st S.L. 2157/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 2250/6. Two Tribal class destroyers are required for an Operation in the Mediterranean and to remain there on completion of this operation. Request they be sailed with W.S. 5(a). They may form part of the escort for FORMIDABLE.
(1st S.L. 2200/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/12. (D.C.1150/12) At 2330/12 (S.C. 2330/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LINCOLN. Sailed Milford Haven 1630/11. E.T.A.Scapa 0920/13. (C. in C. W.A. 0048/12).

WRESTLER. E.T.A. Falmouth 0930/12. (C. in C. W.A. 0930/12 to H.Q.F.C.) Not to be sailed for Portsmouth until P.M./13. (C. in C. W.A. 1312/12 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth). Sailed (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1734/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Arrived SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, BRILLIANT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0752/12).
C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/11. Request passage be arranged so that E.T.A. May Island may be 1100/15 and Beamer Rock 1330/15. (C. in C. Rosyth 1836/12 to Adty).
My 2223/10. Operation will be carried out tonight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1454/12 to Adty).
My 1723/10 and 1817/11. Sailed at 1600. E.T.A. as by C. in C. H.F. 1301/10 plus 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1617/12 to Adty).
My 2223/10. For Lizard read Start. Delete M.A/S.B. 59, 52, and 56. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1624/12).
QUEEN ELIZABETH proceeding to Rosyth screened by SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, BRILLIANT, and PYTCHLEY, is to pass through 90° Tiumpan Head 13 miles at 1630/14., and to pass May Island at 1100/15.
NIGERIA and CURACOA to meet QUEEN ELIZABETH in above position.
NIGERIA to provide close escort against surface attack as far as May Island thence returning to Scapa. CURACOA to provide A/A escort to Rosyth and then to proceed as ordered by R.A.(D) Home Fleet.
Except for mark M Pom-Pom QUEEN ELIZABETH is unarmed.
Air escort has been arranged on passing Cape Wrath until arrival at Rosyth.
(C. in C. H.F. 1747/12 to NIGERIA).
Weather permitting, one Hudson or Sunderland with A.S.V. will escort you from 2200/12 to dawn/13. (C. in C. W.A. 1312/12 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).
Sailed SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, PYTCHLEY, and BRILLIANT as by R.A.D's 2156/11.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1850/12 and 0753/13).
Pass through Nymphebank minefield by QZF.18 entering channel West of 7° West. 5th D.F. to run T.S.D.S. in channel.
Estimate that R.V. with H.F. destroyers will be at 1600/13.

.....U-boat

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LINCOLN. Sailed Milford Haven 1630/11. E.T.A.Scapa 0920/13. (C. in C. W.A. 0048/12).

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(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1850/12 and 0753/13).
Pass through Nymphebank minefield by QZF.18 entering channel West of 7° West. 5th D.F. to run T.S.D.S. in channel.
Estimate that R.V. with H.F. destroyers will be at 1600/13.

.....U-boat

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Contd:)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. (contd:) — U-boat reported by aircraft in 50° 26' N. 05° 20' W. at 1507/12 being hunted by LE TRIOMPHANT, JERSEY, WRESTLER, and MONTGOMERY. Weather permitting a section of Blenheim fighters will escort you from 0800/13 when it is estimated your position will be 50° 58' N. 06° 45' W. (C. in C. W.A. 1950/12 to QUEEN ELIZABETH)

ANTELOPE. — 11/12 entered, fuelled, sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1017/12).

FURIOUS, DIDO, KELVIN, BRADFORD, COSSACK, SIKH. — My 1800/8. KELVIN BRADFORD escort FURIOUS to Liverpool thence KELVIN to Plymouth BRADFORD to Londonderry. ECLIPSE escort DIDO to Scapa. Remaining destroyers escort convoy to Clyde thence COSSACK SIKH as ordered by C. in C. Home Fleet. (C. in C. W.A. 1134/12 to RAMILLIES).

KENYA. — Arrived 1108. (C. in C. W.A.1145/12).

SHEARWATER. — Sailed 1437/12. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1439/12).

FORMIDABLE, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, VIMY — Arrived Scapa 1448. (A.C.O.S.1535/12).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/12).

SHELDRAKE. — Arrived 1538. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1541/12).

EGLINTON, WORCESTER — Sailed 1700/12.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1702/12).

AMBUSCADE. — Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1903/12).

EDINBURGH. — Arrived Scapa 2147. (A.C.O.S.2235/12).

BEVERLEY. — Sailed. E.T.A. Bar Ship 0900/13. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2331/12).

M.T.B's 104 and 107. — To be sent Greenock to arrive by P.M./17 at latest for service abroad with D.C.O. (V.C.N.S. 2212/12 to C. in C. Nore).

Operations.

Iceland. — WOLFE and CHITRAL. Routes to Reykjavik. (F.O.C.N.P.1000/12).

Proposed Operation. — Adty. 1734/10. Re supplies and equipment available. (F.O. Iceland 1620/12).

.....Operation P.V.1.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd:)

Operation P.V.1. Will be carried out tonight from 2000 to 2200. (C. in C. Nore 1028/12 and 1245/12). Operation cancelled tonight owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 1913/12).

Operation P.Y.A.
1. Following operation to be known as P.Y.A. will be carried out when ordered by F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, and under his orders.
2. Two or more M/Ls to patrol during dark hours between 52° 22' and 52° 52' North on a line not less than 5 miles eastward of swept channel keeping to southeastward of the F.N. and F.S. convoys.
3. When P.Y.A. is ordered A/P patrol F.W.P. will be withdrawn and will re-inforce patrol F.W.U.
4. On nights when P.V. one is ordered P.Y.A. will not be carried out.
(C. in C. Nore 1242/12).

Submarines.

PROTEUS. Route to Portsmouth. (V.A.S.0056/12).

Bombing Restrictions. My 0056/12. Particulars. (V.A.S.0058/12 to PROTEUS).

TAKU)
TUNA) TAKU arrived. TUNA sailed escorted by WHITE BEAR as by S.2.1656/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0937/12).

URGE. Arrived escorted by TROUBADOUR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0950/12).

THUNDERBOLT. Leave Patrol after dark 15/12. Route. (S.2. 0958/12).

TRIBUNE)
THUNDERBOLT) My 0956/12 and 0958/12. Routes and orders. (S.2. 1001/12).

UPHOLDER)
UNIQUE)
USK) My 1607/11. Should read E.T.A. Position E. UPHOLDER 0700/17, UNIQUE 1200/18, USK 0700/18 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1107/12).

SEVERN. Your 1219/26. Intend sailing P.M./14. (C. in C. W.A. 1323/12 to V.A.S.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/13. (V.A.S.1539/12).

Sanctuary. My 1418/2. Extend use of Sanctuary to P.M./13 (Capt.D. Londonderry 2300/12 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

East Coast Patrol. Fighter Patrol of 2 Blenheims from Dyce 0830 to Flamborough, returning about 1200/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0746/12).

Patrols. My 2844/30/11. HORNLI being flown A.M. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0754/12). HORNLI cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1102/12).

CENTO Patrol. My 1300/7. A/S Patrol along 100 fathom line between 62° 5' N. 8° 30' W. and 62° 30' N. 5° 30' W. will be flown occasionally as an alternative to MUSSY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1212/12).

FRIESENLANDT at Brest. A.P.660 12/12. Available aircraft of Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to attack tonight aircraft supply ship FRIESENLANDT in dry dock at Eastern End of Grand Bassin De Nord 'Est at Brest. Alternative target power station and docks. (H.Q.C.C. 1045/12).

Bordeaux. A.P.661 12/12. Available aircraft of No.22 Squadron to attack tonight 12th/13th December submarine targets in No.1 Basin at Bordeaux with Magnume. (H.Q.C.C. 1047/12).

A/S. Patrols. Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. One surface recco to west. 2 surface reccos to the east. Area covered 0100 west to 0530 west. (200 Group 1701/12 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.58. Aircraft bombing in 51° 53' N. 1° 7' E. (LONDONDERRY 1056/12). 2 Bombs, no hits. Aircraft damaged by gunfire. (LONDONDERRY 1057/12).

JOHN ALFRED. EVENING PRIMROSE. H.K.1. Drifter JOHN ALFRED was attacked by aircraft at 1530/11. 1 near miss caused damage to hull, extent not yet ascertained. Vessel towed to Brightlingsea and awaiting slip. Drifter EVENING PRIMROSE and H.K.1 patrol report having been attacked by aircraft at 1055/12. A.A. weapons were successful aircraft disappeared Southward in flames. (C. in C. Nore 1547/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation B.S.47. — Intend sail from Spurn Point 1345/14, depart 21.D. Buoy at 1000/15, begin lay 1215/15, returning 21.D.Buoy. (50 M/L.Immingham 1007/12).

Sheerness. — BERNARD SHAW reports one Red Mine detonated by L.L. at 1952/11 in 225° B.4. Buoy 1.8 miles. (Capt.M/S. Sheerness 1136/12).

Dover Area. — Routine sweeps to 0800/12. 2 Mines about 168° South Foreland 2½ miles and 5 Explosive Cutters. (V.A. Dover 1253/12).

Operation Z.M.E. 6. — To be carried out on 14/12 or as soon after as possible. 7 miles in direction 119° from 51° 10' N. 5° 36' W. (V.C.N.S.1312/12 to C. in C. W.A.,ADVENTURE).

Sweep of 117 Q.Z.S. — Weather permitting intend sailing 5 fleet sweepers S.O. NIGER at dusk tomorrow Friday to carry out searching sweep of 117 Q.Z.S. Commencing sweep at South Falls 51° 19.5' N. 01° 43' E. at 0400/14 arriving position X at 0800/14. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1613/12).

Humber. — Closed. Suspected aircraft minelaying. (F.O. Humber 2307/12).

Enemy Intelligence.

GNEISENAU. — Reported at Kiel 3/12. Graded C.2. (D.D.I.C. 1753/12).

Brest. — FRIESENLAND has now left since 8/12. M/V. 540 feet now in Grand Bassin Dry Dock. (P.I.U.2124/12).

Ice Report. — N.A. Stockholm 1445/12.

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE ELK. — Proceed to assist in 55° 56' N. 10° 12' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1608/12 and 2357/12 to PRUDENT).

NIKOKLIS. — Your 2316/11 and my 2337/11. Request you sail Tug SCHELDE with A/S Trawler Escort to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0129/12 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

MONTGOMERY. — Arrived with oil-cooler defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2332/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated position 0900/12 (D.T.D.1154/12 to C. in C. H.F.).

H.X.93. Meet. 29 ships unescorted. Position and route.(C. in C. W.A. 1142/12, 1442/12 to ANTELOPE, ACTIVE, ACHATES, PICOTEE, HEATHER).

H.G.47. Has arrived. 30 ships, 19 British, 8 Allied, 3 Neutral. (D.S.464).

E.N.40. KING SOL and ARAB, additional escorts FLEETWOOD, WATCHMAN.(N.C.S.O. Methil 2325/12).

H.X.97. WORCESTERSHIRE may be required to meet H.X.97 sailing from Halifax 18/12 and not S.C.16. Change desirable owing to more Southerly routes of convoys. (D.T.D.1618/12).

W.N.54. Code "Chitty". Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 6 ships (N.C.S.O.Greenock 1034/12).

F.S.58. Arrived, all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1929/12).

S.L.58. Route. (V.A.N.P.1810/12).

F.N.56. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2355/12).

O.B.258. Clyde portion including Commodore prevented from sailing, fog. Master of SCOTTISH PRINCE to be appointed Commodore. (C. in C. W.A. 2014/12).

F.S.59. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/12).

F.N.56. Arrived.(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1706/12).

S.C.15. Amended route. (D.T.D. 1848/12 to CILICIA).

B.H.X.96. Departure, ocean escort ALAUNIA. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1143/12).

E.N.39.
W.N.52. W.N.52 expected to pass Dunnet Head about 0915/12. Do not enter Pentland Firth with E.N.39 till W.N. 52 is clear. Submarine L.23 escorted by THIRLMERE passes Noss Head 0845 bound for Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0104/12 to ULLSWATER).

E.N.39. Departures at 0145/12 RICHMOND HILL escorted by WINDERMERE to rendezvous E.N.39 off Duncansby Head at 1000/12 after which WINDERMERE proceeds direct to Aberdeen. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0150/12 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys(Contd:)
S.L.56.

Estimated position from Aircraft of A Portion of S.L.56 at 0001/12 is 055° 50' N. 009° 00' W. steering 100°. Estimated position of BURNHAM in company 2 ships at 0001/12 is 055° 55' N. 012° 10' W. Course 090°, speed 8½ knots. Position of remainder of Convoy is uncertain. Aircraft is assisting to locate.
(C. in C. W.A.0158/12 to HIGHLANDER, VENOMOUS, AMBUSCADE).

F.S.58.

Harwich December 12th. FRANKLIN at 0847 to join F.S.58 for Sheerness, e.t.a. 1600.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0928/12).

O.B.C.259.

CAVINA and MARON leave Clyde p.m./14 in convoy O.B.C.259 for areas P.3 and Q.3 respectively (route).
(F.O.C.N.P.0950/12 to Western Patrol).

O.B.O.258.

Expect to sail O.B.258. 0145/13/12 escort VANQUISHER 7 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1000/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.B.O.258.
O.B.C.258.

Sailed VANQUISHER for Oban for O.B.O.258 and HIBISCUS for Clyde for O.B.C. 258.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1112/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.B.C.258.

Held up by weather. Proceed to rendezvous with Liverpool portion in accordance with previous orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1824/12 to HIBISCUS).

E.N.40.

My 1551/11. Add to para.(b) extra additional escort WATCHMAN.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1007/12).

5 M.V's.

Intend to sail group of 5 M/V's and H.M.S. NORTHWIND escorted by French MELPOMENE and A/S trawlers St.CATHAN and LORD STONEHAVEN from Needles at 1715 for Dartmouth. E.T.A. 0815/13.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1117/12).

F.N.57.

Humber 12/12 departure A/S.M/S.Trawler OPHELIA at 0730 to join F.N.57 for Methil for onward routeing to Tobermory.
(F.O.Humber 1120/12).

S.L.56.

Have not made contact S.L.56. Have searched 012° West and back. Proceeding as indicated by Capt.D. Request further information.
(AMBUSCADE 1202/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.16.

Due to sail 1100/15. Request information as to whether escort available.
(C.O.A.S. Halifax 1232/12 to Admty.etc.)

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).
S.C. 14.
O.B. 256.

S.C. 14 22 Ships. Position and route of S.C. 14 uncertain. Leave O.B. 256 in time to arrive 59° 40' N 13° 00'W by daylight tomorrow. Pending further information sweep towards North Channel Report if nothing met by 1200 tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1240/12, to BROKE, SALADIN, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE).

O.B. 256.

Cancel my 1240/12. Remain with O.B. 256 until limit of endurance returning to Londonderry at economical speed. (C. in C. W.A. 1702/12 to BROKE etc).

Your 1702 received too late. Escort returning to Londonderry in 3 sections (A) BROKE, ST.ZENO, VISALMA (B) SALADIN, SARDONYX (C) LA MALOUINE, ST KENAN. (BROKE 1845/12 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.C. 14.

Your 1125/12 to C. in C. W.A. only. Ascertain from HARBERTON and report details as to position in which she left S.C.14 and by which route ships of that convoy are proceeding. (C. in C. W.A. 1324/12 to BURNHAM).

Your 1324/12. HARBERTON reports she lost convoy in 055° N 032° W. 6 ships then in company with Commodore.(route). (BURNHAM, 1527/12).

S.C. 14 meet. (list). (C. in C. W.A. 1432/12, to BROKE, SALADIN, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE).

Leave HARBERTON and proceed forthwith to search for S.C. 14, 21 ships, Commodore Master of ATHENIC (position). (C. in C. W.A. 1914/12 to VENOMOUS).

O.G. 47.

S.C. 14 whose position is uncertain may be met during night passing to the southward. (C. in C. W.A. 1232/12, to LEITH, WILD SWAN, CAMPANULA, PERIWINKLE, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA, PEGASUS).

My position at 1600 056° 20'N 013° 20'W. Hove to missed Convoy gale night 10th - 11th. Request instructions. (GARDENIA, 1441/12, to C. in C. W.A. repeated LEITH)

O.G. 47.
S.C. 14.

Your 1441/12. If you cannot rejoin O.G. 47 proceed to search for S.C. 14 estimated to be approaching from 055° 20'N 015° 00'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1938/12 to GARDENIA).

/S.C. 14 .....

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd). S.C. 14 not met. Am proceeding to N.P. 42. (SALOPIAN, 2315/12, to Adty etc)

H.X. 96. Intend sailing RANPURA as ocean escort for H.X. 96 subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A.3.B.S. 1602/12).

F.S. 59. On completion of patrol 'O' tomorrow EGLINTON is to proceed to vicinity of Outer Dowsing and re-inforce escort of F.S. 59. EGRET is to be S.O. of escort (C. in C. Nore 1704/12 to D.16 etc)

W.N. 53. / **WN. 54** My 1121/10 and 1034/12. Retard sailing 25 hours. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1729/12).

H.X. 90. (attacked 2/12) Your 2000/10 Re war vessel passing under the stern EMPIRE PUMA - HX 90).

S.C. Convoys. Naval Commodore It is considered essential that a Naval Commodore and Staff should embark in charge of SC convoys. If there is no suitable ship available, a ship of the slower type which would normally have sailed in HX Convoy should be detailed. (D. T.D. 1158/12 to C.O.A.C Halifax)

S.L. 58. SUYDERBURG. Convoy S.L. slow 58 reports that Dutch ship ZUYDERBURG No. 22 broke Convoy after passing Fairway buoy on leaving Freetown on Dec. 7th, dropped astern and was last seen steering 310° Convoy speed 7.5. knots. H.M.S. SPANIARD and H.M.S. KELT, escorting vessels, did not sight ship on return passage to Freetown. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1353/12).

Troop Convoys. W.S. 5A. Admty. 1200/5 MAHSEER sailed Greenock 0000/14. (N.O.I.C. Newport Mon, 1500/12 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).

LEOPOLDVILLE speed 15 knots carrying 1584 service personnel, ready to sail from Clyde to Halifax on 13/12, should be included in Convoy W.S. 5 (A). Slow and remain in convoy to 25°W. whence routed independently to destination. Route both sections (D.T.D. 1709/12 to C. in C. W.A. etc).

EMPIRE ABILITY left Clyde p.m./7 for Freetown, unescorted, speed 13 knots, routed inside Azores and Cape Verde Islands. In view of her special cargo she is to be held at Freetown for onward passage to Middle East in Convoy W.S. 5A, 1852/12 to C. in C. S.A.).

/W.S. 5B.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).
W.S. 5B.

My 2219/26/11 Proposed to include following Naval, Military and R.A.F. drafts in Convoy W.S. 5B. (A) 6,700 Personnel in 3 ships for India. (B) 3,500 Personnel in 3 ships for Malays To facilitate embarkation arrangements, War Office request early information as to route these vessels will follow after Durban. (D.O.D.(F) 1836/12 to C. in C. E.I).

FURIOUS.
LEOPOLDVILLE.

My 2250/6. FURIOUS will sail in fast group from Liverpool to Freetown. LEOPOLDVILLE speed 14 knots carrying personnel will sail from Clyde in slow group, bresding off to Halifax from R/V (X). CAIRO and A/A Sloop should return from R/V (X). FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK should join convoy in R/V (X). 2204/12.) (D.O.D. (H)).

SATURNUS.

Swedish Authorities inform me that SATURNUS which left Ambrose Light New York 0630 G.M.T./11 was given sealed orders stating on no account was she to signal position. Captain of SATURNUS reports he is now (? ordered) to signal position to British Admiralty every four hours and he asks for Official Communication. Request SATURNUS be informed your wishes which should be repeated to me for information to local authorities. (N.A. Stockholm 1054/12 to Admty).

Mine Warning.

Admiralty Message D.T. Attention of Masters is called to Defence of Merchant Shipping Part One Article 222. Mines may be encountered anywhere in the world. Commodores of convoy will issue instructions regarding the use of paravanes by ships in convoy. (D.T.D. 1153/12 to C.B.M.S. All areas.).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

COMPIEGNE.

My 1524/11. COMPIEGNE left at 0630/12. Reported French destroyer awaiting as convoy. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon to F.O.C.N.A. 1159/12).

North Atlantic.

SHEFFIELD.

My position and route to Gib. E.T.A. 0815. Sweeping for MADRID on passage. (SHEFFIELD 1800/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Italian Submarines Tangier.

My 1550/9 and N.A.Madrid no T.O.O./11. Now confirms that second Italian U/Boat is M.BIANCHI and not FAA DI BRUNO. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1102/12).

Details of repairs, reported both need to be placed in dry dock. Morale of crews stated to be bad. No shore leave for ratings given since last week. (Consul General Tangier, 0119/12).

South Atlantic.

Raider Reports.

Following read from ANGLO-CANADIAN. Disguised merchant raider 7.30N., 14.30 W Suspisious fast vessel following, we steering 090° at 0820 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T 0835/12). Ref: message 0820 G.M.T. (contained in Freetown 0835) suspicious vessel now out of sight, have not been challenged, description impossible due to haze. (ANGLO-CANADIAN, 1048/12).

My 1125/11. Indication that this unit may have been at any point between Equator 20° W., and 15° N(?) 31 W at 1818Z/11. (C.in C. S.A. 1153N/12). Your 1153N/12. On what evidence is this signal based?. (D.D.I.C. 2213/12) Your 2213/12. My 1047/12 refers. (C.in C. S.A. to D.N.I. 1014/13).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Seaward Defence Force S.A.	Your 1235B/11 agreed. Necessary action will be taken. (Hd. of N.L. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1202/12).
W.S.4.B.	Durban Arrivals. DEVONSHIRE, HAWKINS, escorting W.S.4.B. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1156/12).
VIKING.	French naval trawler, arrived Freetown 12/12. (S.O.I. Freetown 1355/12).
CARNARVON CASTLE.	My 1031/11. Desirable should refit concurrently with action repair. Report whether refit of main engine can be undertaken at Simonstown. (C.in C. S.A. 1739/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown). Remarks on her action with raider. (R.A.S.A.D.1238/Z/12).
Enemy Unit.	ASCENSION'S 1807/11. and 1810/11. The presumed German message was watched for at Freetown but not heard and if this was due to skip distance it is suggested in the absence of bearings other than from ASCENSION that the presumed German surface unit transmitting may have been between positions on the equator 20° W., and 15° N., 31° W at 1837 G.M.T./11. This may possibly refer to the unit concerned in Admiralty's message 0954/10 Dec. (C.in C. S.A. 1047N/12 to Admty).
CANTON.	Your 1705/11. Agree that CANTON returns to Freetown without calling at U.K. C.in C. W.A. requested to issue necessary instructions and route. My 1211/4 to D. of S.T. etc. T.124X ratings in GLOUCESTER CASTLE will be retained for CANTON. (C.in C. S.A. 1637/12 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Foreign Legion Movement.

Admty. 2353/10. Request whether you will be able toarrange for local movement from Duala to Freetown of Legion totalling 1275 all ranks. NEURALIA will be suitably stored in U.K. for conveyance of these French troops. Some of personnel arriving in NEURALIA from U.K. will require onward movement to Takoradi. Your 1945/11 and N.C.S.O. Duala's 1819/10. Agree use of PORT LAMY place of CASAMANCE. Ref. CAPO OLMO, see my 2102/11.
(D. of S.T. 1655/12 to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 1945/11. PORT LAMY expects to complete loading motor transport of Foreign Legion Duala 19/12 and arrive Port Harcourt to bunker 20/12. Further programme. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1717/12 to C.in C. S.A.)

D. of S.T's 2102/11, para.3 suggests an entirely new requirement of which I have no previour knowledge, request that I may be informed of details. As matter is getting so involved, intend to make no further suggestion until D. of S.T. has had time to clear up confusion.
(C.in C. S.A. 1951N/12 to Adty).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Your 1257/10.(No trace in W.R.)
PRETORIA CASTLE is to be sailed p.m./14 via ST. Helena through J.35 (a) and (b) to patrol in J.34 (a) and (b), then to patrol in I 34 visiting Fernando de Noronha then to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1953/N/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Dodecanese.

Inquiry. Chiefs of Staff No.31 to C.in C. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1236/12 See Med. Vol.

My 1241/17/11. (no trace). Reporting conversation with Admiral Ulgen of Turkish Delegation re future of Dodecanese. (C.in C. Med. 1651/11).

Western Desert Operations.

Air report. Operational Summary 185 to 1200/12. Aircraft of F.A.A. bombed Sollum and escarpment road south of Sollum. G.H.Q. E.T.E. state Sidi Barani captured and occupied 11/12. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1248/12).

My 2225/11. Bombardment of Bardia abandoned owing to low visibility. Many naval units now engaged in supplying forward troops and evacuating prisoners. Badly hampered bt strong westerly wind. Reported to be 30,000 prisoners. (C.in C. Med 1347/12).

Submarines.

Admty. 1228/29 and 1222/4. Intend to transfer OTUS, PANDORA and OLYMPUS to 8 S.F. dates. (C.in C. Med. 1627/11).

Malta.

Air report. No operations on account of weather. No enemy air activity. (H.Q. F.A.R. Malta 1715/12).

Enemy Intelligence.

From Greek Vice-Consul, Benghazi, prisoner Benghazi and Rome to 5/12, re movement of convoys to Benghazi, coast guns, seaplane base at Sebka El Bunta, etc. (N.A.Athens 1702/12).

Source reliability B 2 reports: Two destroyers in damaged state arrived Fiume on 26/10. Repair of one expected to last two months and other from four to six months. In Fiume harbour two tankers for Roumania and four tankers for Italy under construction. Each should be around 500 tons. Non delivery of materials from Germany has retarded

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

construction.
(A.N.A. Belgrade 1838/12).

East Indies.

Kismayu.

(C.in C. E.I. 1902/Z/11 to Adty).
(See Operations Vol.)

Oil Tanks, Suspected sabotage.

Trincomalee 2/12 when Norwegian tanker THELMA discharging valve locking gear opened by an ill-disposed person, not necessarily enemy agent, and 650 tons of fuel lost. Sabotage probably committed by native employee. Improvement to valve locking gear and additional security measures in hand.
(Capt: i/c Ceylon 1316Z/12).

Aden Equipment.

S.N.O. Red Sea. 1814/10/11 and 0656/19/11. Following equipment urgently required at Aden is available Rangoon and Bombay. Request approval to allocate
(C.in C. E.I. to Adty. 0718Z/12).

U.S. Convoys.

Your 0808/10 (i) Working on average number of ships required for onward U.S. Convoys and the ships at my disposal, not possible for them all to be capable of 15 knots. Regret no faster ships than ROHNA and RAJULA are available. If possible NEVASA 12½ knots, the slowest ship in the Convoy will be replaced by FELIX ROUSSEL if this ship can be completed in time.
(P.S.T.O. India 0605Z/12 to C.in C.E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Japanese Ships, Examination.

See Blanketing O/2213 of 1/12 and O/2265 of 8/12. I suggest intercepting the next suitable Japanese ship by Khor Kuwai patrol and sending complete mails to Karachi for examination. Request you amplify evidence in order to assist me in selecting ship. (C.in C. E.I. 0618Z/12 to Adty).

SOUTHAMPTON W.S.4.B.

SOUTHAMPTON is to leave Mombasa p.m./14 for Zanzibar to arrive about 0630Z/15. Mr. Hall British Resident Zanzibar and Governor Designate of Aden is to be embarked for passage Aden. As soon as embarked SOUTHAMPTON is to proceed so as to R/V with W.S.4.B. escorted by SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE in position 021° 20'S., 041° 10'W at 1100Z/17. (C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/12).

SOUTHAMPTON DEVONSHIRE W.S.4.B.

Adty. 2219/26 and my 0720/4. SOUTHAMPTON is to rendezvous with W.S. 4.B. in position 021° 20'S., 041° 10'E. at 1100Z/17, and relieve DEVONSHIRE. On relief DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown subject to concurrence C.in C. S.A. (C.in C. E.I. 1212Z/12).

U.S.7.

Arrival 0800Z/12. CHAKDINA departure 1043Z PERTH to join U.S.7. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1044Z/12).

GAIRSOPPA "Q" Report.

British ship GAIRSOPPA when in position 8 N., 84 E at 1350Z/10 heard very faint Q.S. Message could not be read because of interference from call signs JAPD and JJAC. Consider interference unintentional and wireless operators report unreliable. (C.in C. E.I. 1544Z/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY,

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Report. Summary No. 183. One Blenheim 203 Squadron provided Fighter escort convoy U.S.7. 4 Blenheims 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties two making A/S searches en route. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1736/12.)

China.

Raider. Examination of photographs. Details. (C.in C. China, 1251Z/12).

Japanese Fleet. German Raider. Following received from Navy Dept. (Situation of Japanese combined fleet.) In Indian ocean in mid. November Nazi raider described as about 10,000 tons 18 knots six guns torpedo tubes several planes, appearance like P and O liner and has dummy equipment for changing silhouette. This raider captured Norwegian vessels OLE JACOB and TEDDY sunk latter and sent former into Kobe where crew was placed on board SCHARNHORST. No definite moves as yet but considerable activity on German ships in Japanese ports. (N.A.Washington 1219/12)

America and West Indies.

A.M.S. Armament. Present main armament and fire control system of the 3 Canadian A.M.C's (4 6" Mark VIII guns on P III 20" mountings) would appear very inadequate against the type of enemy raider liable to be met with vide R.A.S.A.D.1714/6. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa 1224/11 to Adty).

1, Nov. to 31 Dec. 1940 unit
on K-10-A

ENDING OF

REEL K-9-A.

DOCUMENTS • PHOTOGRAPHED

1/10/1940 to 31/10/40 cont from K-8-A

[redacted]

1, Nov./1940 to 31, Dec. 1940 cont on K-10. A.

Admiralty War Diaries

ONI

DATE: 16, April

MACH. NO. 1701

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: SKAggs & Powell